Baring it all

pages 12 & 13

Synchronized swimming

page 22

Limblifter surprise

page 20

LH5
M3a

Will you be my soggy valentine for 57 years?

MARTLET

Thursday, February 10, 2005 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 57, Issue 22

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

ON THE SPOT WITH SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN & AARON MCMILLAN

Last week's story on the Peeping Thong website generated national media attention and raised concerns over privacy at the university. Do you think the concerns are valid?

Andy Bergen
Yes, it is something to be concerned about. The women did not agree to have their photos taken.

Colin Lindell
Everyone likes bums, right? Share in the wealth.

Erin White
I think it's inappropriate. I think it's gross that girls have their thongs sticking out anyway, but still, there doesn't need to be a picture taken of it.

Gord Straub
I guess it's a valid concern, but if people are going to be walking around with their thongs sticking up their back . . . if people can legally do it, I guess there's nothing wrong with it.

Rebecca Richey
In other places people are being murdered and raped—if our predators are taking innocent pictures, not even of nude body parts, then I think we're pretty lucky.

Stripping down the thong issue

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

A website that features photographs taken at UVic of unsuspecting women with their underwear exposed is still up and running, a week after it sparked outrage from the campus community.

PeepingThong.com features galleries of women with exposed thong underwear, most taken without the subjeet's knowledge. Many of the photographs were shot around campus at cafeteria tables, benches and library study tables, but additional pictures were taken at Cadboro Beach and on B.C. Ferries.

The site was temporarily down on Friday but soon reappeared with the following disclaimer: "If you don't want your thong displayed online then keep it in your pants. Public areas are for everyone's enjoyment; If you are not comfortable with people you don't know seeing your thong hanging out, wear less- revealing clothing.

"All photos on this website were taken either with the subject's consent, or in a public venue. We only want to show the world what you already have," reads the website.

The site's owner, Jeff Smith, a former University of Victoria student, did not return e-mail requests for an interview.

Though many students were outraged by the website, calling it "scary," "appalling" and "disgusting," others dismissed its importance.

"The fact that it's even been on the front page of the news—I think the hype is a little much," said Rebecca Richey, a fourth-year fine arts student. "But I think it's a practical joke, so it's not that big a deal. It's not like anyone is being hurt or any faces are being posted."

Campus Security Services (CSS) posted yellow security notices in the Student Union Building, University Centre and McPherson Library on Friday, all areas where pictures have been taken. The notices ask anyone with information about the identity of those involved with the website to contact CSS.

"We've had some calls but basically giving us information we already had," said Ken Marrison, acting director of CSS. As of now, he says there is no indication that any current UVic student is involved with the Peeping Thong site.

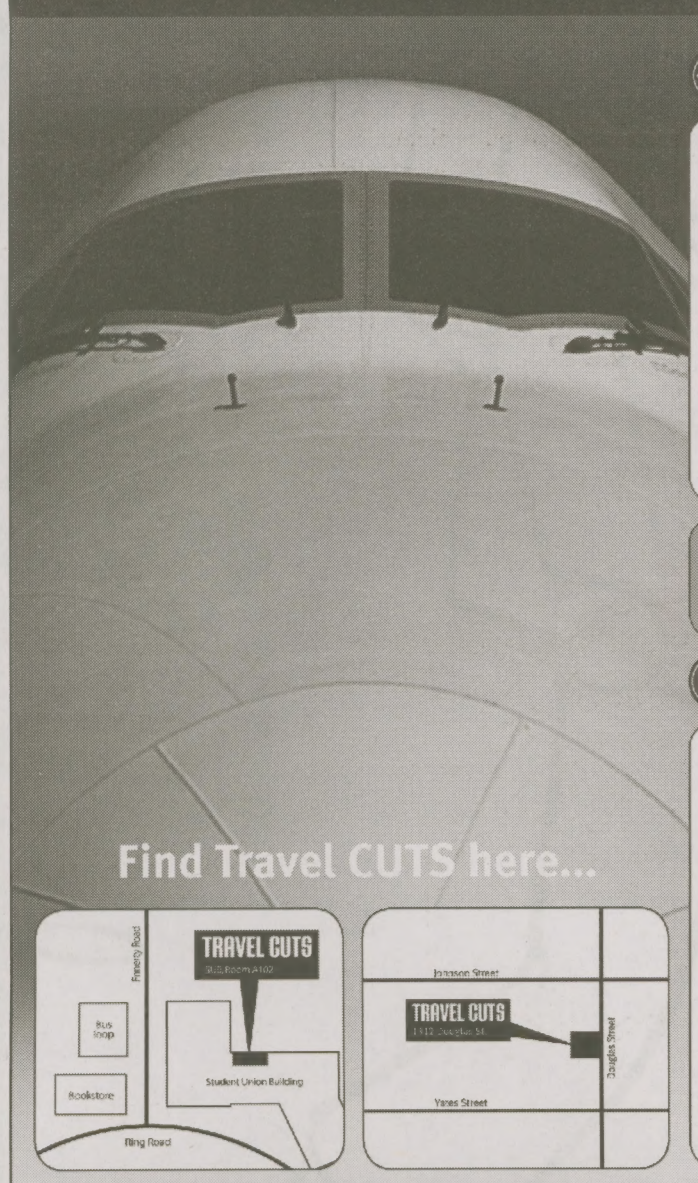
The Martlet's Feb. 3 story prompted follow-up media coverage from *the Times Colonist*, *the National Post*, CBC and other national media. Marrison said the media attention doesn't surprise him. "The site probably got a whole lot more attention than it deserves or needs."

PeepingThong.com has seen about 34,000 visitors in the past week. Prior to last Thursday, the site had only 2,300 visitors over a year and a half.

The act of taking photos of others in a public place is legal, but a bill to make voyeurism illegal is currently before the House of Commons.

In Virginia yesterday, the senate voted to outlaw the trend of wearing pants low enough to show underwear. Violators face a $50 (U.S.) fine.

TAKE OFF, eh!



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sloth *gluttony* envy

PETER HUISMAN PHOTO

Hempology 101 leader Ted Smith talks to reporters after being fined for trafficking marijuana on the UVic campus.

Pot activist back on campus after four years

by Bryna Hallam, with files from Peter Huisman

Ted Smith returned to the University of Victoria on Feb. 2, and it only cost him $500.

Smith was fined $500 for distributing "marijuana cigarettes" at a Hempology 101 meeting in 2000. He was convicted Jan. 20 for trafficking marijuana in amounts under three kilograms for passing out joints at weekly Hempology 101 meetings. The club, of which Smith is the president, meets at 4:20 p.m. Wednesdays near the Petch fountain.

Undercover officers arrested Smith after they infiltrated the weekly seminar and took some roaches as evidence.

One of the conditions of Smith's bail was that he not step foot on the UVic campus. Now that the trial is over, he is free to return. Cheers and applause greeted him at the Feb. 2 Hempology 101 meeting, which marked the first time he had been to campus in four years.

Smith is a long-time advocate of medical marijuana. He founded both Hempology 101 and the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club, which provides marijuana to people who can prove they have an incurable disease or illness.

When Smith took the stand in court, he explained his actions. "My intention was to engage and inform about cannabis," Smith said, "and the history and philosophy of probation."

Judge Judith Kay rejected the defence's call for an absolute discharge, saying that Smith knew that what he was doing was a crime, and that a $500 fine would deter Smith and others.

Outside the court, Smith pledged to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Pro-life discussion deals with abortion stigma

by Megan Stewart

Despite nearly four decades of increased legal access to abortion, much stigma still surrounds the pro-choice/pro-life debate and the factions involved.

Responding to a recent motion to stamp out UVSS pro-choice policy, the Women's Centre and the Anti-Violence Project launched an awareness campaign that culminated in a panel discussion the evening of Feb. 8.

Three pro-choice speakers took the stage in front of nearly 60 people and went to work debunking some pro-life myths and exploring the connection between women's rights and abortion. A UVic law professor, an abortion clinic administrator, and a Pro-Choice Action Network (Pro-CAN) spokesperson spoke on "Defining Choice," and asked why choice in the matter of abortion is a vital right and why a pro-choice policy is important at UVic.

A look back at abortion access

Gillian Calder, a law professor at UVic since last year, ran through a constitutional history of abortion legislation in Canada and said, at one time, penalties for getting an abortion included life imprisonment.

In 1969 the Canadian Criminal Code legalized abortions in certain limited circumstances, and even then a woman had to obtain permission from a committee of three physicians. Women who illegally sought an abortion during this time could face two years behind bars while doctors who performed the procedure might have landed a life sentence.

Calder championed the work of Dr. Henry Morgantaler, a Montreal family physician who in 1969, defied constitutional law and opened an abortion clinic to provide the then-illegal procedure. Morgantaler was charged with conspiring to perform an abortion and, despite a jury acquittal, spent 10 months in prison.

In January 1988, the Supreme Court ruled that Canada's abortion law was unconstitutional and found to violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because it infringed on a woman's right to "life, liberty and security of person."

Chief Justice Brian Dixon wrote, "Forcing a woman, by threat of criminal sanction, to carry a fetus to term unless she meets certain criteria unrelated to her own priorities and aspirations is a profound interference on a woman's body and imposes serious delays causing increased physical and psychological trauma."

While Morgentaler's endeavours and legal gain achieved landmark results, Calder pointed out that the debate failed to affirm a woman's right to reproductive choice. She also said that while abortions were legalized, they weren't and still aren't necessarily readily accessible to all Canadian women.

"Barriers to access remain, making it still impossible for some women to exercise what is constituted in Canadian heath law as a medically necessary procedure," she said.

Not simply black and white

The debate is one Calder says she'll continue to fight. She denies that the issue is as simple as a pro-life/pro-choice dichotomy. "In my view, casting the debate in such stark terms is problematic and misleading," she said.

While choice, life and abortion can be prefixed with a pro- or anti-label, the law professor maintains that one view in particular could encompass all opinions.

"It seems trite to say, but embracing a pro-choice approach to the debate is just that," Calder continued. "Recognizing that enhancing the protections of women's equality requires giving to all the opportunity to make choices about their reproductive health."

Calder said that for the sake of supporting all female students at UVic, the UVSS policy should remain pro-choice because it honours a woman's choice to either have an abortion or not.

"Respect for all women's agency requires that a bottom-line, pro-choice position be adopted both legally and politically."

In fact, Calder said she's proud to be fighting for a cause she believes in, but hopes the debate has a limited lifespan. "Part of me feels really exhausted that we have to keep doing this," she said.

No shame

One of the reasons the debate continues, said Pro-CAN spokesperson Joyce Arthur, is because of a sense of shame surrounding abortion and unwanted pregnancies. Arthur, who publishes a yearly review with Pro-CAN, said women should take ownership and be vocal about their reproductive history, especially if they've had an abortion.

The pro-life movement—sometimes referred to as "anti-choice" by those on the pro-choice side—has been very busy keeping a stigma in place that ensures women feel guilty and ashamed for needing an abortion and for having gotten an abortion, said Arthur.

"I wish women (who've had abortions) would speak up more," she added before disclosing that she'd had an abortion 15 years ago. "It's nothing I'm ashamed of. I think that if women are willing to admit that and talk about it, it would help erase the stigma."

Dawn Fowler, an abortion clinic administrator, said the individual pressure a woman feels to keep private her reproductive health extends to physicians and medial professionals who associate with the controversial procedure. During the late 1990s, three abortion providers were shot at and several of Morgentaler's clinics were burned.

"It's not socially acceptable at this point to talk openly about having an abortion," said Fowler. "It's not even socially acceptable to say that you work in an abortion clinic or that you're an abortion provider."

Arthur added that the trend to dissuade and eventually stop the pro-choice culture from successfully ensuring safe access to abortion is the main tenet of pro-life factions.

She said that the "ultimate, implicit goal of all anti-abortion groups" is to restrict access to safe abortions by changing current laws and government policies, or, at the very least, advocate against abortion and against a woman's right to choose.

The pro-choice point of view, she said, advocates for a woman's right to be informed of and to have access to all pregnancy options in a "safe, non-judgmental atmosphere."

"Anything less," she stated, "is unethical and unprofessional."

Abortion rights defended

Calder brought the focus of the discussion back to the UVSS pro-choice policy and the motion to render that stance neutral by saying that the night's subject was, in the end, the wrong topic of discussion.

"The question shouldn't be about whether or not we have a policy on pro-choice," she said, "but whether or not that it is the right policy to have. (The policy) should be how to ensure that choices that do exist are more meaningfully available to those who need them."

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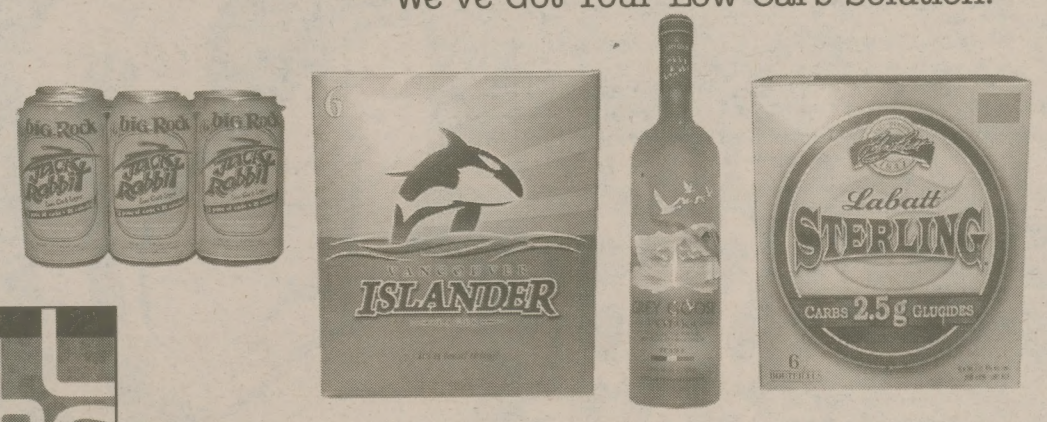

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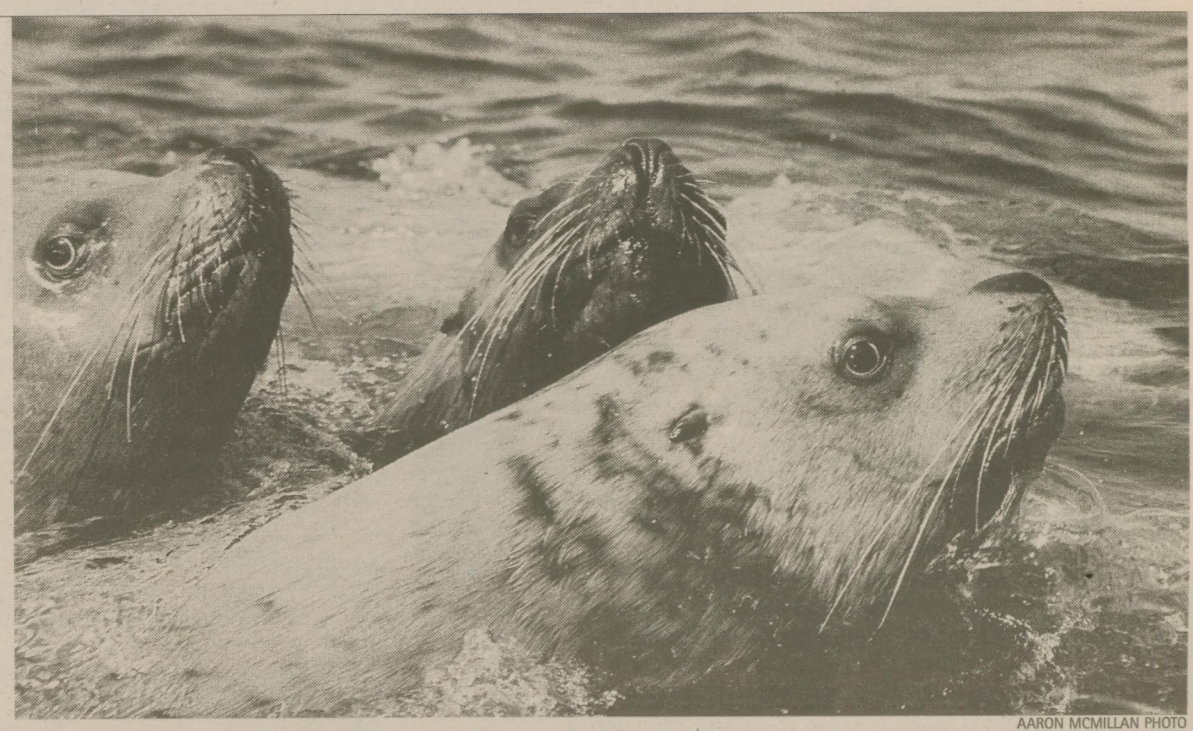
When sea lions attack

by Megan Stewart



AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Stellar sea lions swim off of the coast of British Columbia.

While hardly the stuff of *Jaws*-inspired cinematic gore, encounters with sea lions are not fictional either.

Under an overcast sky seven years ago, Aaron McMillan and three friends were waiting to catch a wave at Sombrio Beach, north of Sooke, when a sea lion pushed its head above the surface.

"I don't know why, but it came right at us and started barking," said McMillan, who described the seal's bark as hollow and hoarse. "From what I could see, it was a big animal."

Since the beginning of June 2004 there have been 12 reported encounters between sea lions and surfers at Long Beach, south of Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Working towards her master's degree in geography, Wendy Szaniszlo is studying the Stellar and California sea lions in the Broken Group Islands, an archipelago of over 100 islands and islets south of Long Beach.

Szaniszlo is researching the effects of boats on sea lions in the Broken Group Islands. She's interested in the effect of humans on vessels like whale-, storm- and sea lion-watching boats and if they are causing fright and discomfort to the sea lions.

Not much is known about the underwater habits of sea lions, and Szaniszlo is intrigued by the aquatic mammal's recent run-ins with surfers, which she describes as "a relatively close and intense encounter in the surf zone."

Long Beach, with about 12 kilometres of sandy shore, winds down the coast from Tofino to Ucluelet, wrapping around Schooner Cove and Wickaninnish and Florencia bays. The surf breaks roughly 50 metres from shore—ripe waves for surfers but also prime sea lion habitat for the 300 animals that frequent the area.

There haven't been any injuries as of yet, but Szaniszlo says the sea lions' behaviour is unusual.

"The marine environment is really their true environment," she said. "We don't know how to interpret their behaviour. People are describing similar behaviours of the sea lions, but half say the animals are playing, the rest say the animals are aggressive."

However, she believes that if the sea lions' intent were antagonistic, there would have been an injury by now.

The California sea lion is a very vocal animal and is notorious for barking repeatedly while the Stellar sea lion makes a raspy, low-pitched growl.

In McMillan's case, the sea lion seemed threatening and left the surfers only once they had reached shallow water and walked to the beach. Because of the barking noise, McMillan thought he was approached by a California sea lion.

He says he was sitting upright on his surf board, but Szaniszlo is unsure if a surfer's body language—lying flat, sitting upright or standing up—would provoke a different reaction.

At this point, park rangers have posted signs along the beach that draw attention to the sea lions' habitat.

The two species of sea lion living along Long Beach are significantly different animals, said Szaniszlo, but they share some important traits.

California sea lions migrate to the Baja peninsula in Mexico to breed during May to August, while Stellar sea lions leave from June to August and head to unknown northern destinations. Long Beach becomes a natural mixing spot for the animals since it is the farthest north and south that each respective species travels during their migration.

In the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, which includes Long Beach, there are three haul outs where sea lions climb onto rocky outcrops and expose themselves to the weather.

There is no territorial conflict between the species because the Stellar sea lion is significantly larger and can weigh up to half a ton.

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The Seven MORTAL Sins ...

Activists fight Tre Arrow's 'trial by media'

by Bryna Hallam

Tre Arrow knows all about the power of the media.

Behind bars since March 2004, Arrow—whose real name is Michael Scarpitti—has been labelled an "eco-terrorist" by a number of major news media, despite the fact that a judge has stated that the term "terrorism" should not be used in reference to Arrow's case.

"My involvement in peaceful, non-violent activism is well documented," Arrow stated shortly after his arrest. "Any attempt to label or brand me as the 'T' word is only an effort to discredit my reputation and detract from the effective campaigns I've been involved with."

Activists Ben Shannon and Mynah Meagher are travelling across Canada on a national speaking tour titled "Media as the Judge: The Case of Accused 'Eco-Terrorist' Tre Arrow." According to his website, Arrow feels that his side of the story isn't being addressed and has asked Shannon and Meagher to speak on his behalf to as many groups as possible. They were in Victoria last week, and spoke at both UVic and Camosun.

"The tour is happening purely in response to the continuing destruction and demolition of Tre Arrow's character by the corporate media and to help spread the truth about what really is going on in the case of Tre Arrow," said Shannon, a spokesperson for the Tre Arrow Defense Committee.

In July 2002, Arrow was charged with participating in a logging truck fire that took place in Oregon in June 2001. That was followed by an October 2002 charge for involvement in a second fire, also in Oregon. The 2001 fire did $50,000 US in damage at Ray A. Schoppert Logging. The 2002 fire resulted in $210,000 US worth of damage at Ross Island Sand & Gravel.

The charges stemmed from the testimony of another man, Jacob Sherman, convicted of the crimes. Sherman initially faced 40 years in jail; he is now serving only 41 months. He received a plea bargain after telling the FBI that Arrow masterminded the event.

It was during Sherman's trial that Judge James Redden stated that "the term 'terrorist' is not to be used in reference to this case or the defendants."

However, the FBI and what Arrow's supporters call the "corporate media" have continually called him an "eco-terrorist."

"The media has decided to convict Tre in the headlines," said Shannon, "and now they are calling him—without the words accused, alleged, suggested, possibly—they're just flat out calling him an eco-terrorist."

He also believes that the media has played a large role in Arrow's case. "Why he's actually in there is because of media's role in implementing, charging, convicting and sentencing Tre Arrow for these crimes," said Shannon.

"When you have [eco-terrorist] being thrown out in every media paper, when every media release you read in reference to Tre Arrow is using the eco-terrorist to preface his name, that connection is being made," said Meagher. "There is guilt being inflicted on someone before the trial has even begun."

Shannon believes this is because the media's main concern is not the truth, or even information. "The media doesn't write to distribute information," said Shannon. "They don't write to distribute the truth. They don't write to distribute facts. They write to collect money." And "terrorist," he says, sells better than any other word.

Arrow fled to Canada sometime between his two indictments in 2002, fearing a set-up by the FBI. Arrow has been listed on the FBI's "most wanted" list since that summer.

He was arrested in Victoria in March 2004 after he was caught shoplifting in a local Canadian Tire store. He has been detained ever since and is awaiting an extradition trial set for April. In the meantime, he is seeking refugee status and fighting his extradition to the U.S., saying he will be unable to get a fair trial in the States.

"How can 12 people in Portland fairly take in the info?" Shannon asked. "How can they not be biased by the media's report?"

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Ben Shannon, left, talks to a Tre Arrow supporter Feb. 3 at Camousn College.

Arrow's supporters also believe that the FBI is planning to make an example of Arrow. As an example, Shannon points out that the FBI is asking for a sentence of 80 years for Arrow. In comparison, Jeff "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years in an Oregon prison in June 2001 for firebombing three SUVs.

Arrow has maintained his innocence from the start. "I am innocent of the charges the U.S. government is trying to pin on me," says Arrow. "Just as many activists have experienced, I am being targeted by the U.S. government and the FBI, not because I am guilty, but because I have chosen to challenge the status quo."

Shannon agrees, saying Arrow is in jail not for his alleged crimes but for "the act of resisting the status quo, for being an effective activist and more importantly for being an effective organizer."

"He is a poster boy for the environmental movement," said Shannon of Arrow, who has a long history as an activist.

He first caught the media's attention on July 7, 2000 during a rally in Portland, Ore. to protest a stand of old growth forest at Eagle Creek. Arrow climbed onto a ledge of a U.S. Forest Service building, 30 feet above the ground. He remained on the nine-inch ledge for 11 days.

Logging at Eagle Creek ended with the ledge-sit, which triggered an independent review of the timber sale at the site. Three years later, the deal was cancelled altogether and all logging stopped.

Arrow was also involved in the 2001 Acey Line tree-sit. He climbed nearly 100 feet up a tree, only to have the branches cut out from under him by loggers. Trapped, he spent three days in the tree. Denied food and water for two days, and sleep deprived—he was subjected to loud music, sirens, bullhorns and bright lights intended to keep him awake—Arrow fell to the ground from exhaustion.

His injuries were extensive and included internal bleeding, severed ribs and a fractured and dislocated shoulder.

Since Arrow's arrest in March, he has continued to attract media attention. He staged a 44-day hunger strike after prison authorities refused to provide him with a raw-food diet. He lost more than 50 pounds as a result. His lawyer, Rudolf Kischer told *the Globe and Mail* that Arrow looked "like a holocaust victim. It [is] horrifying."

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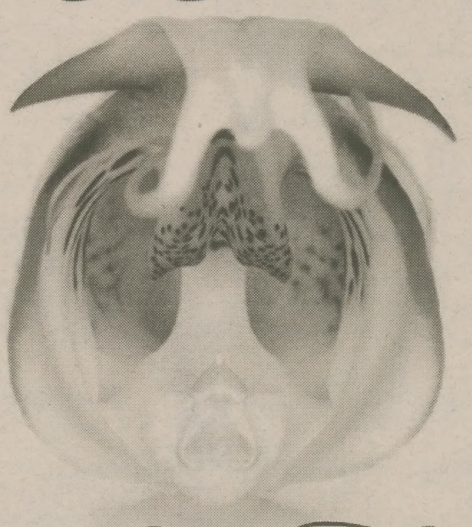

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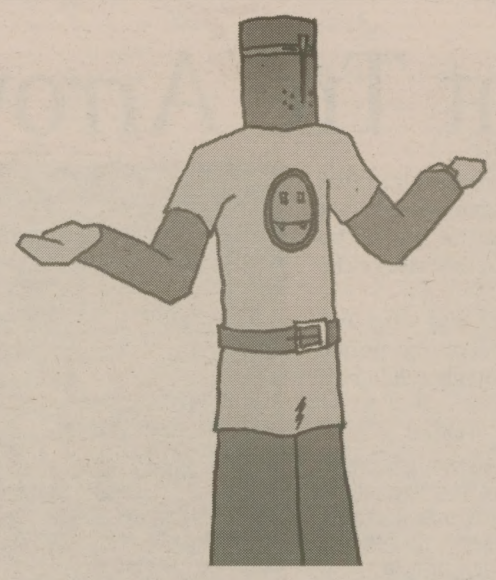

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

by Victoria Barber

You're 14 years old. You barely make it to school at six in the morning and have just realized that you forgot your wax tablet at home when the teacher calls you in front of the class to translate a passage into Latin. The moment you hesitate (Genitive? Ablative?), the schoolmaster screams, pulls down your pants and beats you with a stick. The day starts looking up when school is cancelled until further notice due to plague outbreak. Welcome to childhood, circa 15th-century England.

Approximately 200 medieval enthusiasts of all stripes (and tights) met in the David Lam Auditorium Feb. 5 to learn about such tender scenes of medieval childhood and family, as revealed in paintings, in philosophical treaties and in high school notebooks.

The event was the 18th annual Medieval Studies Workshop, jointly organized by UVic's continuing studies and medieval studies departments.

From diapers to discipline to dysfunctional families, the workshop sought to fill a nagging gap in our knowledge of the Middle Ages—what was it like to grow up before there was refrigeration, plumbing and passive entertainment?

At the workshop, Prof. Catherine Harding of UVic introduced us to the medieval family, and Prof. Eva Kushner, from the University of Toronto, imagined the late medieval/early Renaissance child.

Prof. Paul Dutton of Simon Fraser University revealed that Charlemagne had a dysfunctional family too, and Prof. Helen Cazes, a professor of medieval and renaissance French literature, examined the phenomenon of baby swaddling.

Prof. Nicholas Orme, from Exeter University, sifted through the exercise books of schoolboys to present juvenile views on food, war, lawyers and corporal punishment.

To further evoke the period, the workshop included the group Hexaphone, who presented a program of a cappella songs, including the medieval version of "birds do it, bees do it, but not I."

The Pacific Association for Re-creating the Middle Ages (PARMA), a non-profit society that recreates the lives of ordinary medieval people, exhibited a living diorama of a medieval shop in the MacLaurin auditorium. The group shared their experience in writing calligraphy, painting with egg yolk and bending over to take off chain mail (don't do it—it hurts).

The Medieval Studies Workshop has been held every February since 1988. This year left the audience with some lingering questions. Did swaddled babies wear diapers? How old was too old to be denuded and beaten in front of your peers? The quest for knowledge continues.

B. BRADY PHOTO

Amid ballons and punch, student co-ordinators Lynn Stelling and Garrett Stetson host Peer Helping's open house.

Students helping students

by Ford Walker

Peer Helping drew over 60 people to their annual open house Feb. 8 and attracted at least 15 new student peer helpers to the program.

The Peer Helping Program is a student group that is ready to listen yet remain objective in face of the plethora of problems that confront students.

Smiler Overton, a co-ordinator with the program, points out that they offer support for many challenges that the average student might face. "Anything from talking about relationships to stress from school, such as exams or talking about problems with instructors," said Overton. "A lot of people don't know about their options and what is available at UVic."

To help students figure it all out, Peer Helping offers a confidential drop-in, helping, information and referral service. The group also does outreach work with programs and events such as Depression Screening, orientation for new students and the Wellness Committee.

"An important aspect of Peer Helping is that they also act as a link to the university's counselling services." said Lynn Stelling, the centre's student co-ordinator.

In addition to the many services provided by the centre itself, peer helpers are active in UVic's residences, helping students who are worried about their first years away from home and in university. The centre also works to get similar problem-solving programs started in high schools.

For more information on the Peer Helping program, go to their website at www.coun.uvic.ca/peer or check out their office in SUB B005. They can also be reached at 721-8343 or peerhelp@uvic.ca.

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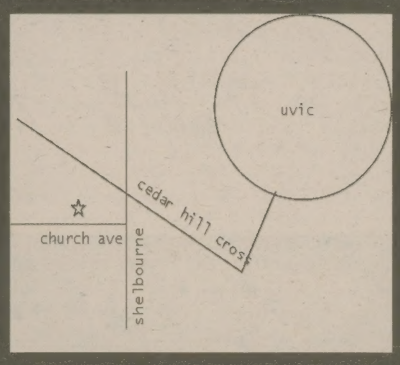

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Liberals promise to cap tuition increases

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Student leaders in British Columbia praised the provincial government's pledge to link tuition increases to the rate of inflation, but some cautioned that the Liberals may be making promises in order to get re-elected.

The Speech from the Throne, delivered at the opening of the legislature in Victoria on Feb. 8, promised to cap tuition increases and increase funding for advanced education by $132 million over the next three years.

The chairperson of the UVSS credited a Canadian Federation of Students campaign, in which 38,000 signatures were gathered on a petition to reduce tuition fees, for prompting the cap.

"Today students can declare a victory," said Joanna Groves. "Students at UVic and other college and university campuses worked hard to collect those signatures and today we were heard."

Groves said she was surprised that, in an election year, the throne speech didn't go further and announce a tuition freeze or an increase in financial aid.

Chris Giacomantonio, student society president at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, said he is still skeptical about the government's plans for higher education.

"The Liberals continue to talk about a New Era for British Columbia, but after four years of their rule, tuition has doubled, university funding has been slashed and students without deep pockets are less likely to get a space in higher education," he said. "Only during an election year do they try to make us forget that higher education is in big trouble by announcing new funding and programs."

Overall, he said, the announcements weren't surprising.

"I would have liked the Liberals to say, 'We're doing this to get re-elected, and after our re-election, we're going to continue to ignore the needs of higher education.' At least then they'd be telling the truth," Giacomantonio added.

The cap is contingent on the Liberals being re-elected in this spring's provincial election.

If tuition were capped, it would mean a maximum tuition increase of about $240 next year. Legislation to make it official will be introduced later this year.

EMMA HILLIAN PHOTO

An estimated 16,000 people attended the protest calling for the closing of the U.S. facility in Georgia.

Protest to close U.S. army facility draws thousands

by Tim Boultbee

Emma Hillian got involved in politics at an early age, thanks to her parents being involved in social justice issues and refugees from Latin America as neighbours, .

She continued that involvement in November 2004 when she travelled to Fort Benning, Georgia, to participate in an annual gathering to call for the closing of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), formerly known as the School of the Americas (SOA).

The Pentagon established the SOA in Panama in 1946 as part of the U.S. government's war on communism. In 1984, under terms of the Panama Canal Treaty, the SOA was relocated to its present location. Over its 59-year history, the SOA has taught over 61,000 military personnel throughout Latin America and the Caribbean counter-insurgency techniques, guerrilla warfare, commando operations, military intelligence and psychological warfare.

Human rights courses are now taught, but they were only introduced into the curriculum after activist organizations such as the School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) began documenting human rights atrocities throughout Latin America that were being committed by SOA graduates. The watchdog group has also called for the SOA to be shut down.

Hillian joined 16,000 others at the two-day protest to call for a closing of the facility, an event organized each year by SOAW. Former U.S. naval officer and Vietnam vet Roy Bourgeois established the organization in 1990.

Bourgeois, now a Maryknoll priest, and SOAW supporters like Hillian point out that SOA graduates are responsible for the 1981 massacre in El Mozote, El Salvador, in which over 700 people were killed.

SOA graduates include former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noreiga and former Guatemalan president Rios Mott whose short term in office coincided with numerous atrocities against Guatemala's indigenous population.

SOA graduates are also responsible for the murders of El Salvadorian Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1980 and Guatemalan Bishop Juan Gerardi in 1998. Gerardi had just finished co-writing a report on atrocities committed by Guatemala's military intelligence agency—the G2—before he was killed. The man responsible for his death, Colonel Byron Lima Estrada, had helped run the G2 along with two other SOA graduates. Estrada was convicted in Guatemala City in 2001 for Gerardi's death.

The SOAW also points to a U.S. congressional task force that found SOA graduates responsible for the 1980 murders of four American nuns—Maura Clark, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan—in El Salvador. The gathering to close the SOA takes place on the anniversary of their death.

The first day of the event had a slight festive air, said Hillian, as people were welcoming one another, listening to music and visiting information tables. But on the second day, she continued, the mood changed profoundly as a funeral procession took place.

Every victim from Latin America had his or her name, age and country of origin written on a white cross. Participants marched in a loop to a fence erected by military personnel and left crosses in the links. "Everybody was silent," Hillian said. "Many people were crying. There were so many crosses that people could not see through the fence. It was hard to process it all."

Hillian said she felt both overwhelmed and inspired by what she saw and heard, and by the people she met. "I met a lot of Americans who felt at war with their country, but they definitely aren't giving up, that's for sure," she said.

She also had the opportunity to hear several survivors of torture talk about their experiences. She described one woman from El Salvador who was pregnant when she was tortured. The woman lost her baby, Hillian said, but is now proceeding with a case against those who tortured her. "It was really sad to learn so much, hear the testimonies and realize the enormity of what we're taking on," said Hillian. "[Going] was the least I could do for the victims of torture, genocide and disappearances throughout Latin America."

Despite a heavy presence of police and helicopters flying overhead, Hillian reported that there were no violent confrontations between protesters and authorities. However, 15 people were arrested and face both jail time and fines reaching thousands of dollars.

Those who want to see the SOA remain open say that the facility should not be blamed for the actions of only a few of its former students. In a letter posted on the official SOA website, Commander Colonel Glenn R. Weidner writes that attempts by SOAW supporters to close the military school are misguided.

Weidner says that his experiences with the school led him to conclude that the SOA, "despite allegations to the contrary, has promoted values entirely consistent with those espoused by its fiercest critics." Those values, Weidner continues, include promoting "U.S. values with respect to democracy the proper role of the military in society and adherence with international standards of human rights."

The protesters, Weidner continues, depend on "a systematic distortion of the record" in their efforts to close the SOA. The facility, he says, "contributes materially to the promotion of democracy, institutional accountability to civilian authority and transparency and co-operation between the militaries of the hemisphere."

For Hillian, the fact that the SOA does not look like it is going to be closed means that another SOAW gathering will take place this coming November. "I really want to go," Hillian said, "and I will keep going until the SOA is closed down."

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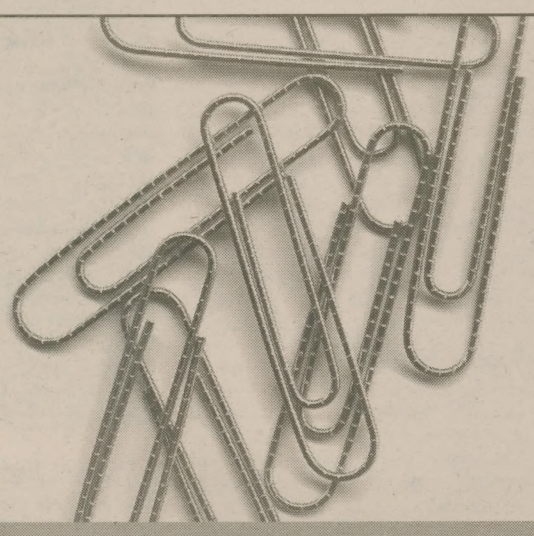

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Victoria's got a dirty secret

Destruction of Canada's boreal forests gets exposed in lingerie ads

by Michelle Martin

It wouldn't be strange to see a woman dressed in a tight corset, knee stockings and angel wings in a lingerie advertisement. However, in an ad in the Jan. 21 *New York Times*, a woman appeared like this with an unusual accessory in her hands: a drawn-on chainsaw.

This bizarre image was part of ForestEthics' "Victoria's Dirty Secret" campaign to draw the public's attention to how the catalogueue industry is destroying Canada's boreal forests.

Victoria's Secret has been targeted by the environmental group ForestEthics since October 2004 for "leading the way in global forest destruction." The ad states, "Victoria's Secret mails out more than a million catalogues a day, and the cost of these catalogues isn't sexy—they're printed on paper made from some of the world's last remaining Endangered Forests."

"Its simply an ecological travesty that we're destroying some of the last intact forests on Earth to make pulp and paper that's being shipped to the United States," said the program director of ForestEthics, Tzeporah Berman on a CNN feature.

According to ForestEthics, a California-based organization that strives to protect the world's endangered forests, the United States imports 80 per cent of all Canadian wood and paper exports: Canada's boreal goes to the U.S. is the form of catalogueues, toilet paper, book paper, magazines, lumber, newspapers, office paper, paper towels, diapers, et cetera.

In the meantime, ForestEthics has accused Victoria's Secret of "greenwashing." Les Wexner, CEO and chair of Limited Brands, Victoria's Secret's parent company, claims to be "relentless about trying to do the right thing" for the environment.

B. BRADY PHOTO

ForestEthics, a California-based environmental group says the lingerie manufacturor is advertising panties at the cost of endangered forests.

In response, ForestEthics notes on its website, www.victoriasdirtysecret.net, that approximately 395 million catalogues are mailed out by Victoria's Secret each year, and almost all of them are produced from virgin fibre paper with little or no recycled content. On top of that, most catalogues end up in the trash or recycling.

The Victoria's Dirty Secret campaign is only the most notable development in the midst of ongoing disagreements on appropriate logging practices in Canada's boreal, which stretches from Alaska to the Atlantic coast, through Central Canada. This area, 12 times the size of California, makes up a quarter of the world's remaining intact forests. At this time, about two acres of the boreal are logged every minute, and less than eight per cent of it is legally protected from large-scale industrial development, such as commercial logging companies and oil and gas drillers.

In 2001, several groups agreed that there was a need to form a plan for Canada's boreal forests that balanced monetary and ecological interests. The agreement was made between the B.C. government, First Nations (500 communities call the boreal forest home), industry, environmentalists and local communities to explore how ecosystem-based management could be used to better manage B.C.'s ancient coastal rainforest. This coalition has the challenging objective of protecting at least half of Canada's boreal forests.

This agreement was hailed as a great opportunity to manage forests in a more environmentally and socially responsible way; however, findings by the David Suzuki Foundation show that great improvements have not yet happened.

In 2004, the foundation released a status report titled *Clearcutting Canada's Rainforest*. It said that clearcutting remains the dominant method of logging in Canada, that there is significant damage being done to many fish-bearing streams and that vast habitat for Canadian wildlife is still unprotected.

However, raising awareness may be the conservationist's best mode of action. In the past, ForestEthics held a successful campaign against the office supply industry that resulted in a groundbreaking environmental policy by Staples.

This public pressure approach already appears to be working to a small degree. Since ForestEthics launched its campaign, Victoria's Secret has started printing 10 per cent of its catalogueues on a paper with a high recycled content.

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Carbohydrates are the new fat, protein the new skinny

by Heather Bownes

Low-carbohydrate, high-protein diets are sweeping across North America. But this fad is more than a diet when even skinny people are on it.

Ten years ago it was fat that was making everyone obese. Now, the blame is put on carbohydrates. From underdeveloped teens to business professionals, many people are now enjoying a diet that allows them to eat pork rinds and bacon but banishes bread, pasta and potatoes back to the Middle Ages. Go into any bookstore and you'll find shelves of books devoted to the subject, with everything from Atkins to the Zone.

Restaurants and fast-food joints are jumping on the low-carb bandwagon, including Subway, which now offers to substitute wraps for bread, effectively halving the carb intake. At restaurants, waitresses don't even blink when people order a porterhouse steak with no potato.

The new high-protein, low-carb fad diets seem to pervade commercials, cookbooks and restaurants. But is cutting carbohydrates almost entirely out of your diet actually helping you lose weight?

Shaun Emery, a nutritionist for six years, works at Planet Organic, a local health food store. The store boasts organic foods as well as a variety of protein powders, vitamins and nutritional supplements.

Emery says that Atkins is very good at making people more aware about the carbs they are eating. However, he says it puts all carbs in a bad light and takes high-protein to an extreme.

"I've never known any of my customers to stick with the Atkins for more than two weeks," says Emery. "The diet is just too extreme." He explains that people typically lose 10 pounds in the first two weeks of Atkins, but he says that most of it is water weight.

"People feel fat after eating carbohydrates because of the water [they're] retaining. For every one gram of carbs you have three to four grams of water in your body," he says. As a result, it's not fat being lost in those initial weeks. He also adds that after the initial loss, depending on the starting weight, people generally don't lose a whole lot more, and eventually the loss is in muscle tissue or even bone.

Danielle Van Schaick, a registered dietitian and fitness trainer, echoes the words of Emery and stresses that moderation is the key to a healthy lifestyle, adding that she feels strongly against fad diets. "It's hard to generalize on what each person should be eating because every body is different," she says. "Healthy living is a lifestyle choice."

Cutting simple carbohydrates such as refined sugar, white bread and pastries out of your diet is a good idea, but they are wisely replaced with complex carbs like brown bread, rice and pasta. Complex carbs will keep you fuller for longer and have more nutrients and fibre. Suddenly carbs start to look less like the fat-creating monsters we are told to believe they are.

So how do you lose fat? Surprisingly, cardio is not the most efficient method. In order to burn fat effectively, you would have to run for about 40 minutes before burning fat. Weight training is what actually burns fat the fastest. Fat fuels muscles—more muscle mass equals more fat loss. Emery suggests doing 30 to 40 minutes of weights and then 20 minutes of cardio. "Then your cardio is all fat loss and also good for the heart," he explains.

Emery is also a great advocate of protein shakes. Highly competitive athletes are not the only ones drinking them any more—far from the chalky protein shakes of 10 years ago, new flavours from blueberry to cappuccino to plain vanilla make drinking protein even more appealing.

Right after you work out is when your body needs protein the most, and the shakes are a fast, easy way to give your body what it needs. Your body will then be able to repair and recover faster. But don't start thinking that protein is an energy source—it's strictly for repairing and building new tissue. Carbohydrates are the only source of energy that the brain and body can use. Emery says that whey protein powder, which is low in lactose, is also good for people who might not get enough protein in their diets.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Far from the chalky drinks of yesteryear, protein shakes in vanilla, cappuccino and blueberry are not just popular among professional athletes.

While Van Schaick agrees that protein shakes have their place in training and for competitive athletes, she says the average person doesn't need them. "If you have balanced eating habits, you shouldn't need a protein drink," she says. In fact, for someone who only does light activities, extra protein is not needed and can actually be harmful. Extra protein is stored in the kidneys, and if you overdose on protein, you can severely damage your kidneys or get very sick.

There is good news for those who think that going hungry is the only way to lose weight—it's not. The truth is you could actually not be eating enough: if you don't eat regularly or enough, your metabolism slows down, and when you do eat, your body will store the food as fat. Both Van Schaick and Emery recommend that everyone follow a diabetic's diet. With three meals and two snacks, a diabetic's diet is labelled "perfectly balanced."

Moderation is the key, as keeping blood sugar levels steady is important, even for people who aren't diabetic. When blood sugar levels fluctuate between extreme highs and lows, it puts a lot of stress on the body, meaning that missing a meal can be worse for you than eating, even if it's just a piece of fruit. Smaller portions more frequently are the key for both weight loss and keeping energy levels steady.

Most importantly, says Van Schaick, eating should be enjoyable, and most diets take the joy out of eating. "Everyone should live a healthy lifestyle," she says, "and when you are stressing about what you're eating, that's not healthy."

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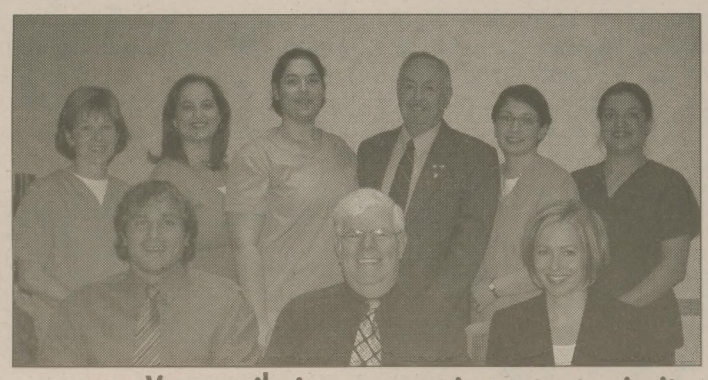

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Uproar over violent end to York protest continues

by Aliza Libman and
Maryam Behmard
Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP) — The ongoing uproar at York University following the violent end to the Jan. 20 protest on campus has garnered much reaction from students, faculty and community members.

Both the York senate and student union have passed motions condemning the presence of police on campus to break up the protest and the use of force.

Students have reacted with anger for various reasons, with some upset about the perceived lack of free speech on campus and others angered because their classes have been cancelled or drowned out by frequent, noisy protests.

Members of the Grassroots Anti-imperialist Network and Canadian Union of Public Employees local 3903, which represents York teaching assistants, organized showings of a videotape of the incident in Vari Hall on Jan. 26 and 27.

Students came out to support the student who was badly beaten by police and others who were arrested, as well as to call on the administration to make Vari Hall a space for free speech. The rally featured students, faculty members and other speakers, who discussed the importance of free speech on campus and York's affiliations to various corporations.

David McNally, a professor of political science, stressed the battle for free speech and people's rights is part of a larger struggle in our society to uphold the importance of civil liberties.

"You are part of a freedom struggle," said McNally. "You need to proudly embrace that this is about freedom and the exercising of democratic rights."

Some students showed concern when the focus shifted from the police presence on campus and the problem of free speech in Vari Hall to issues concerning corporate connections at York and conflicting religious sentiments, which left some feeling uneasy about participating in the rally.

"They addressed the issue that students had gathered for—to express concern about the student who was hospitalized, and the use of Vari Hall," said Daniel Jacobs, a philosophy student who attended the Jan. 27 rally to support the students who were arrested. "It was not about Palestinian and Israeli issues and the holding up of flags. This was not a religious or race issue for many students."

KONSTANTINE KILITARDA/EXCALIBUR (CUP)

A speech that Liisa Schofield made into a sound amplification device led to her hearing for breach of school regulations.

Tally Wolf, senate representative for CUPE 3903, agreed the assembly should have been more about the arrested students, but instead was used as leverage for certain groups of people to promote their political views.

"I have personal connections to some of the students that were arrested, and students were at the assembly to uphold everybody's democratic right," said Wolf, "but as students, we should also be clear as to where we put our support."

Some students became upset when the York Federation of Students took what they felt was position on the side of the protesters, who they see as an impediment to their education. The student union passed a motion condemning the administration for calling in the police for the Jan. 20 demonstration and its "routine of relying on police to suppress students' freedom of expression."

Keren Katz, a political science student, is one student who is critical of the council's motion.

"In a democracy you need to work within the system. I don't think holding illegal protests on campus is working within the system," she said. "I don't support my classes being disrupted and I don't understand why my student government does."

Rabia Siddiqui, vice-president of the student union, said they support and address the concerns of all students, faculty and groups at York, not the interests of one group over another.

"The YFS supports all students that want to peacefully assemble in a space that is rightfully theirs," said Siddiqui. "Some groups with certain political views have taken on the issue of free speech and attempted to represent all students with their particular views."

As students continue to be vocal in lobbying the York administration to allow the use of Vari Hall for presentations, school exhibitions and free speech, the university continues to take disciplinary action against students who participate in protests by issuing warnings and penalties.

Liisa Schofield, a political science student, was issued a letter by security officer Ken Tooby for her use of a megaphone at a rally. Under the presidential regulations, the offence is a minor infraction but cannot be appealed.

At an informal hearing Jan. 31, Schofield addressed a three-member panel at Founders College, which will decide whether the infraction can be challenged. If students choose to comply with the accusations against them, the disciplinary panel will indicate a penalty outlined in the presidential regulations, including a possible $200 fine.

Schofield is requesting the opportunity for a disciplinary hearing, where the panel will allow her to defend herself and cross-examine her accuser, which is the process used for major infractions taken to a higher tribunal.

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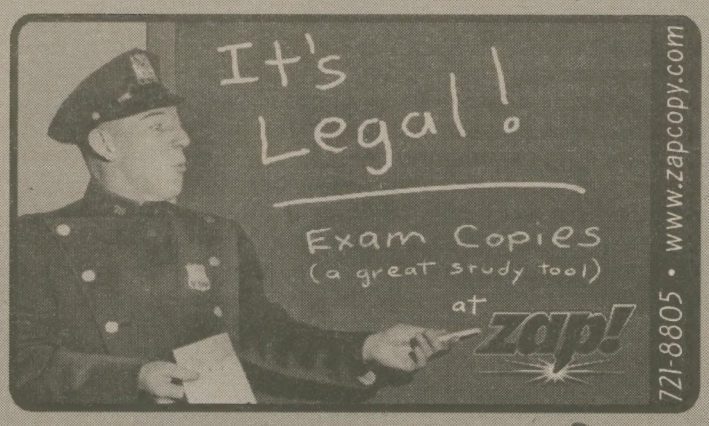

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Canada failing to meet world poverty goals, UN rep says

Prince of Swaziland criticizes government for not fulfilling funding targets

by Hanna Nash
The Gateway (University of Alberta)

EDMONTON (CUP) — Canada isn't keeping up with its commitments to eliminate poverty, warned United Nations youth ambassador Prince Cedza Dlamini of Swaziland in a speech in the University of Alberta's Horowitz Theatre Jan. 31.

Cedza, the grandson of South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela, spoke as the opening keynote for the university's International Week.

In his address, he stressed the ability of Canadian youth to pressure the federal government into helping developing countries eradicate poverty.

Discussing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) created at the World Summit in September 2000—a meeting between all nations to eliminate poverty—Cedza explained Canada is not en route to achieve its pledged amount of funding by 2015. While he commended Canada's past efforts to assist poverty-stricken countries, like those affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami, he also reminded a crowded auditorium of their government's financial responsibility to the UN.

JEFFREY GREENIAUS/COURTESY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE/THE GATEWAY(CUP)

Prince Cedza Dlamini urged Canadian youth to demand Canada become more involved in fighting global poverty.

He said many financial targets the Canadian government promised to meet have not been met.

"Currently, Canada is the second lowest to the United States in its contributions towards achieving the MDGs, while countries like Denmark continue to be among the leaders when it comes to this type of development assistance," said Cedza.

According to him, despite Canada's $9.1 billion surplus last year, at the current rate of donation, Canada will not fulfil its agreement with the UN until 2039, 24 years after the deadline. He urged Canadians to spur the government into fulfilling the agreement sooner.

"We as young people have the energy, the drive and the passion to be able to hold our governments accountable towards their promises. I'm here to ask young people to push their governments to meet and fulfil their Millennium promises," he said.

Although Cedza recognized the dependency of developing nations on wealthier countries, he also acknowledged each Third World country has an obligation to help itself.

Being from a continent where poverty is among the highest in the world, he maintained that with improved spending, African countries will be able to decrease the effect of poverty on their people.

"It's not that African governments don't have the ability to fulfil their promises to their people, but it is that they lack the political will to do so. We can ask our leaders what they do with their budget," said Cedza.

He also discussed how debt relief could be used toward the eradication of poverty.

In the case of Tanzania, for instance, since the country's $7.3 billion debt was removed, it has been able to place the $217 million annual sum previously used for debt reduction into education.

"Since Tanzania was approved for debt relief, they have been able to abolish school fees completely, and 1.6 million children have gone to school for the first time," said Cedza.

Drawing on the words of his grandfather's 1994 inaugural speech as South African president, Cedza reminded all generations of Canadians each person has something they can contribute towards the ending of poverty.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate," he said.

"Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

CHECK OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO CARS WITHOUT ANTI-THEFT DEVICES OR IMMOBILIZERS.
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Baring it all

by Jennifer McFee

Annie Temple walks into T-Barz, a Surrey strip club, and sits at a table near the stage. She orders a vodka and cranberry juice and smiles up at the tall, blond dancer who is slowly removing her harem outfit to the "I Dream of Jeannie" theme song.

She watches the woman on stage until the last song, when the dancer removes her pink, sequined G-string and bends her naked body forward, peeking at the audience from between her tanned legs.

"I like to watch without staring," says Temple. "Women in the audience always make strippers more nervous than men. They can be the most judgmental."

Temple speaks from experience. She is a stripper, although right now she doesn't look like one in her jeans and navy T-shirt. Her stage name combines Little Orphan Annie and Shirley Temple, which suits her five-foot frame and curly red hair. She started dancing eight years ago, when she was 23, at the Marble Arch, an adult club in downtown Vancouver. Her friend, who had been dancing for years, gave Temple the contact information.

"The biggest realization for me was that it was so easy," says Temple. "Not all dancers felt that way their first time. But for me, I wasn't insecure about my body. Well, maybe a bit about my small breasts. I was doing it for money, not for men's approval. I was really, really broke."

Since her debut, Temple has danced her way across the Lower Mainland. Like most dancers, she belongs to all three of B.C.'s main adult entertainment agencies—Deluxe Entertainment, That's Entertainment and Stripper Entertainment.

According to Matt "Bad Ass" Jackovich of Stripper Entertainment, his agency represents about 400 female dancers, as well as about 30 males. It sets up amateur nights and wet T-shirt competitions to initiate new dancers into the circuit. Once the rookies are comfortable, the agency sends them to small clubs until they get enough experience to work at higher-profile venues.

"Some of them take to it like a fish to water," says Jackovich. "Others take a little longer."

Once they are on B.C.'s main strip club circuit, dancers work a six-day week, anywhere from three to 13 hours each day. Depending on the venue, dancers earn between $30 and $70 per 18-minute show, and the agency that books them takes 15 per cent of their earnings.

I did the math. At the rookie rate, my university tuition for this year would be entirely paid for by about 40 hours of stripping.

Tricks of the trade

I've been going to strip clubs for years. I find the women fascinating. I always want to hear their stories. One woman told me she became a stripper so that she could make a documentary film about the industry. Another dancer told me that she's an exhibitionist at heart, and through stripping, she gets the attention she craves without demanding it from her family and friends.

I admire their openness and confidence. Sometimes I wish it were me up there on stage, twirling around that pole, shedding sequins and stilettos, wearing nothing but my smile. Is it too late at 28? My body is definitely not the same as it was 10 years ago.

But apparently, a little bronzer or glitter conceals imperfections. Blue stage lighting makes fair skin look smoother. Red stage lighting has the same effect for dark skin. There are tricks of the trade.

Temple says that she may dance into her forties. "The beautiful thing about stripping is that it is real women," she says. "We're not talking air-brushed models with flower-petal pussies. We're talking about stretch marks, cellulite, non-Barbie proportions and the occasionally embarrassing moment, like getting your period on stage."

Strippers are a reflection of the average woman, Temple says. "They may look glamorous while they are on stage, but high heels, mood music, a big smile and a good attitude can do that for anyone. It's an illusion in some respects."

Joanne Gibson Menzies has taught ballet, jazz, tap and modern dancers in Abbotsford for the last 22 years. She agrees that dancers reflect average women because they share the same body insecurities.

"Dancers are even more paranoid about body image," she says. "While they may have nicer bodies because of their training, they don't usually feel like they do. Instead, they feel inadequate and strive for perfection."

Charlene Rowley, owner and designer of Fantasy Dance Wear, helps to create the illusion of perfection for Temple and other exotic dancers through her sexy handmade costumes. Rowley says that her customers are a variety of ages and body types.

"I have one customer who started dancing when she was 35. She used to be a cop. Would you believe that she changed careers because of sexual harassment? She had no control over the harassment in the police force. In dancing, you have the control."

So maybe there's hope for me yet.

The power of dance

Despite the financial advantages of being a stripper, Temple hasn't saved much money. She only works enough to live comfortably. As a single mother of a five-year-old girl, she finds it impossible to earn the higher wages strippers get by travelling to clubs across the province.

She says that her daughter is too young to understand the nature of stripping, but she knows that her mom dresses up in pretty clothes for work. She sees her mom transform into a pixie, a cat, a cowgirl or a schoolgirl.

"I do not plan to keep this part of my life a secret. I hope to raise my daughter to be open-minded and recognize that the stereotypes are not accurate," says Temple. "I want her to know that women can be strong, independent and savvy, and also be strippers. Or stay-at-home mothers, for that matter."

B. BRADY PHOTOS | SPECIAL THANKS TO KISS AND TELL

'Women can be strong, independent and savvy, and also be strippers'

She describes the dancers she knows as women with substance and wisdom. "Dancers are not crackheads or whores. I have met more intelligent and dynamic women in the strip industry than I have met anywhere else."

However, Temple does feel jaded by the industry. She finds it difficult to maintain a romantic relationship, and says that her career negatively affects her opinion of men.

"I know it's only 10 per cent of customers who are fucking idiots, but 100 per cent of men can be easily manipulated by sexy women. And it just takes the occasional lying, cheating bastard to make them all seem deceitful," she says. "Dancing makes me feel powerful. I learned to look down on men. They are so beat when it comes to a beautiful woman with confidence."

Hazy red lights

I was on stage with a stripper once, nearly 10 years ago. Maybe that's where my fascination began. I was 19 years old and living a block away from Amsterdam's red light district. I was at a live sex show with my high school sweetheart and a few Canadian friends. The audience was made up mostly of older men. A dark-haired dancer pulled me up on stage from my nearby seat. The first thing she did was take off my glasses. I couldn't see a thing. I immediately felt like I was in a dream. Everything was hazy, including her. She pulled my white cotton shirt over my head. Then she undid my pale green bra. I was standing there topless, but I couldn't see so it didn't seem real. She turned her back to me and tried to get me to undo the long row of hooks on her corset. All I remember was how much my hands were shaking.

I only snapped back to reality when she started to undo my jeans. I shook my head and climbed offstage. I walked back to my friends, squinting past the staring faces. I didn't realize what I had done until I got back to my seat, put on my glasses and saw the look on my boyfriend's face. He didn't look angry or judgmental. He just looked surprised. He looked as though he were thinking, "Who are you, crazy girl?" After that, whenever we walked down that street, male shopkeepers would step outside and shout, "Eh Canada!" with lecherous grins. I felt embarrassed and elated at the same time.

Warmth and wetness

This voyeuristic male fascination with female nudity is nothing new. Present-day stripping stems from the burlesque tradition, which was popular from the 1840s to the 1960s. Burlesque began as a form of adult entertainment that focused on humour, satire and sexual titillation. Scantily clad actresses mocked established forms of bourgeois art, like opera and ballet. The striptease became part of the act in the 1920s, offering live entertainment that couldn't be found in film or radio.

Dr. Linda LeMoncheck, an American feminist philosopher, deconstructs the effects of the male gaze in the sex industry. "Many radical feminists contend that dancing in strip clubs, working as prostitutes or posing for pornography reduces women to marketable sexual commodities," she says. "But sex workers are the quintessential feminists, taking advantage of the power of a woman-identified sexuality."

Temple contends that women aren't objectified by exotic dance. "Part of what attracts a man to a woman's body is the warmth and wetness he imagines when he looks at it. That doesn't make the woman an object, it makes her a subject," she says.

Deconstructing stereotypes

Like most dancers, Temple says her career evokes mixed reactions. Initially, her mother was horrified by her choice.

"She was sure that I had to be on drugs to be a stripper. She said I was degrading myself and I was an embarrassment to her. She bought into all the stereotypes."

Temple says that she lied to her mother for a year and said that she stopped dancing. "As soon as she thought I wasn't dancing, everything was great. I eventually told her I was lying and I was stripping again. We had a really big fight, and since then, things have been much more mellow."

While Temple feels empowered by her dancing, she admits that not all strippers do. She says that many dancers hate the industry and find it difficult to find other work if they haven't developed other marketable skills.

"The strippers who are degraded are only degraded because they have internalized the stereotypes about them," she says. "They aren't thinking for themselves. They are wallowing in self-pity and are too self-absorbed to take a positive role in their own lives. There are women like that in every industry, just as there are drug addicts in any industry. I experienced more degradation as a waitress and a secretary than I ever experienced as a dancer."

To counter some of these negative stereotypes, in May 2002 Temple started a website called the Naked Truth.

The site consists of forums for dancers and non-dancers, gig information exchanges, rookie advice and columns written by dancers, including Temple herself. The site has drawn over 180,000 visitors to date.

"The biggest reason I started the Naked Truth was to effectively challenge some peoples' opinions about strippers and to provide a support system for strippers because the stigma is so pervading and discouraging at times," says Temple. "The Naked Truth is my proudest creation."

In addition to developing the website, Temple uses her exotic dance skills to raise money for causes she supports. She recently organized a fundraiser strip-a-thon that raised over $2,000 for a sex worker advocacy group. She was also involved in Exotic Dancers for Cancer, a fundraiser organized through her website that raised over $3,000 for a former dancer battling terminal breast cancer. She hopes to make it an annual event.

Feminist stripper

These days, Temple is dancing less and studying more. Soon after she started stripping, she enroled in women's studies classes at Simon Fraser University. She incorporated her experiences as a feminist stripper into her papers and projects.

"This helped me greatly in accepting myself as a stripper and not letting the condemnation of others get me down," she says.

Temple recently finished a two-year diploma program in public relations at Kwantlen University College in Vancouver. She volunteers in the public relations field for several organizations and hopes to find work as a speechwriter.

"I'm glad I have dancing to fall back on if I don't find a job, but honestly, I want to move on with my life. You can't dance forever, and the longer you do it, the harder it is to find something else," she says.

Annie Temple is a stripper who dreams of writing, while I am a writer who dreams of stripping. I'm glad to know that it's possible to be a part of both worlds, but for now, I am content to experience the stage vicariously through women like Temple.

Editorial

Keeping the music in the harbour

On an average sunny, summer afternoon, hundreds of people jam the causeway in Victoria's Inner Harbour, listening to musicians, admiring the antics of jugglers and browsing the work of the city's undiscovered artists.

The proposed increases raise the cost of the licenses to perform on the causeway. The fees for jugglers will jump to $360 from $10, for buskers, $180 from $10, and for artists who display their work, to $950 from $500.

These fees are set to rise, in stages, to $2,000 over five years. Additionally, those purchasing licenses will have to shell out several hundred dollars more in GST and insurance, which was previously paid for by the city.

The fee increases are the idea of the non-profit Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, which took control of the causeway from the city last week. The organization's CEO says the increases are necessary to cover costs of cleaning and maintaining the area.

One thing is obvious: this is going to kill the small-time street performer.

Not everyone is glitzy enough to make a living juggling or breathing fire. The causeway performers who will suffer the most are musicians who enjoy playing in front of others, honing their skills before taking on higher-profile slots in bars and clubs. Some just enjoy playing music outdoors, and figure it doesn't hurt to make a bit of change while doing so.

A few performers do make enough to pay these amounts for a license, but most others come nowhere close. Because of the number of tourists, causeway spots are coveted, and some wait hours for a prime playing spot. Once it's grabbed, the time limit for that location is just two hours. If a performer can only get out a few times a week, the most they're making is spending money—not enough to warrant paying hundreds for a license.

While the harbour authority's argument is valid, the city was clearly able to pay for the causeway's upkeep while it was in charge of the area. The centerpiece of the city's tourism hub—which includes the Legislature, Royal B.C. Museum, and Government Street—the street performers on the causeway are a source of pride for the city, which prominently features them in tourism material. The funds to fix up the area should come out of the city's pocket, not the performers.

The fees for jugglers and buskers are still being reviewed, and a community meeting is being held in James Bay Feb. 11 to address concerns like these.

Sure, it's sometimes overly crowded and a few of the performers are bloody terrible, but charging more to play will not improve the quality, as some have suggested.

By raising fees, the harbour authority will effectively limit the Inner Harbour performers to a select few who can afford to play enough to pay the outrageous fees. They might also just push them elsewhere in town. Having such an eclectic group of performers is something the city should take pride in, and being able to perform for tourists shouldn't cost hundreds of dollars.

Hopefully the performers will win out, and the Inner Harbour will continue to be a reflection of Victoria's energetic and diverse arts scene.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
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GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Ah, a Greater-spotted crimson t-bar, how rare! ...you know, if I had a girlfriend, I wouldn't find this anywhere near as exciting."

A deeply militarized zion

North Korea consumed with oppression and corruption

by Peter Huisman

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), a.k.a. North Korea, the whites of people's eyes are blinding. A half-look from the corner of the eye is what goes for a common glance. This mild yet manic motion fosters a general sense of suspicion. But, strangely enough, this place doesn't reek of fear. Desperation rules here.

North Korean officials, namely the ones with the phat Rolexes, publicly claim that food is "abundant" thanks to the "man-centred" Juche philosophy and "military-first" Songun politics. They don't mention the collapse of the food ration system a decade ago, the ensuing private markets or the oppressive inflation. Nor do they dare mention the millions of tonnes of food aid from the "three enemies": South Korea, Japan and the United States. Aid sacks are common sights throughout the country—almost as common as AK-47s.

However, lots of shots of soju can distil sober admissions of problems: One DPRK official privately admitted that, from a population of 23 million, eight million rely on food aid for essential sustenance. The UN's World Food Programme says 40 per cent of North Korean children are stunted, 20 per cent are underweight and eight per cent suffer from wasting.

Just recently, Kim "sun of the 21st century" Jong-il, supreme commander of the million man Korean People's Army, cut rations for 16 million proles from 300 grams of cereals a day to 250 grams. Compared to the depths of the recent famine, this is progress.

From the late 1980s to the late 1990s, a conservative estimate is that between 500,000 and three million North Koreans starved to death. The plump Thought Policeman I questioned about the famine (a.k.a. the Arduous March) mouthed the official explanation: "bad weather." Like Milli Vanilli, they blame it on the rain.

For a few weeks in July 2004, I filmed the DPRK-sponsored Reunification March for Korea's Peace and Independence. *ABC News* producer Andrew Morse was also along for the trip.

"North Korea has suffered an economic disaster," he told his video camera. "Tut-tut!" scorned the Thought Police. "That's the UN's wording," replied Morse, who changed the phrase to "economic hardship."

Because of this, and several other perceived slights, the Thought Police ransacked his hotel room, smashed his laptop, seized his videotapes and threatened to have him hunted down in China. His signature on a pre-written confession bought his freedom to leave the country.

Think you're arduous enough to march through this bizarre bazaar of gluttony, hunger, smiles and spies?

If so, visit Korea-DPR.com (Home of the Thought Police) and find your way to the Reunification March page.

Usual religious falsehoods

The killing continues, but religion alone can't be blamed

by Steve Weatherbe

Dave Psutka got one thing right in his anti-religion article, "The Problem with God" (*the Martlet*, Feb. 3): most people do believe in God. As for the rest of his article, it is a pile of unsubstantiated claims and logical fallacies.

Psutka's most fundamental flaw is to blame religion for people who kill in the name of religion. Why not blame people—that is, human nature.

As evidence, Psutka rhymes off a list of countries and regions and asserts their recent conflicts are about religion. In most cases, however, the disputes are between ethnic and cultural groups who invoke religion to sanctify their murderous policies.

Humankind has always been willing to kill for what it considers important. Religion has often been important. But even Europe's famous wars of religion involved a complexity of motives, including the desires of princes, kings and various economic and social groups to use religion for their political advantage. And throughout history, behind most conflicts has been the desire of rulers, tribes and countries for power and advantage, not religion.

In this century, the death toll of two world wars surpass all others combined—both free of religious motivation. In the name of egalitarianism, the Russian Revolution and the Soviet state killed tens of millions of Russians, and Mao's version of communism killed tens of millions more Chinese. Shouldn't Psutka being calling for an end to this deadly "ism"?

Meanwhile Nazism claimed its tens of millions too, partly in the name of the German race but also in the name of science. This science, which "proved" that some races were intrinsically superior, is now discredited. The same junk science, calling itself eugenics, justified Canada's left wing, including some feminists of the day, in pushing for racist immigration policies and sterilization of the mentally challenged.

If religion has to "wear" the conflict in Sri Lanka, why shouldn't science have to "wear" eugenics? Psutka claims religion is full of untestable propositions that are "incompatible with the most rudimentary scientific beliefs." On the contrary, modern science is built on the Western religious belief in an ordered and rational universe. Behind Psutka's argument here is the premise that a proposition that isn't testable according to the procedures of modern science is unreasonable. Psutka's faith in the scientific method as the only way of being reasonable is itself untestable and unreasonable. There simply are other ways of knowing than the scientific method.

The human rights issues that occupy *the Martlet* are full of reasonable beliefs in various human rights that are scientifically untestable. Psutka's own conclusion, that religion should be abolished to avoid a catastrophe, is premised on the untestable and unscientific belief that a catastrophe ought to be averted.

Let me conclude with my own assertion, which is testable: everyone makes value judgments. These are generally morally rather than scientifically based. Sometimes they come from religious beliefs. Lately they come from secularly derived values.

But we still keep killing.

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Thongs attract attention

High-riding thongs no excuse for predatory behaviour

by Patrick Szpak

Readers of last Friday's *Times Colonist* (*TC*) would have been surprised (or not surprised, depending on how cynical the reader) to see the story of digital-cam voyeurs of peepingthong.com at UVic featured on the front page. This story, first broke by *the Martlet*, was picked up by major newspapers like only a story dealing with college girls, thongs and voyeurism could—our very own Janet Jackson nipple.

Featured in the *TC* article is an interview with David Clode, head of student services at UVic, who, when asked about those photographed on the site offered this opinion.

"Their choice of attire is their choice. I can't imagine that you don't know what the effect is of how you dress," said Clode, adding, "How can you not be aware that you're not being revealing?"

The insinuation is clear: if you wear an exposed thong you are responsible for the attention you attract, including creeps who stalk you with cameras—and who knows what else. This is basically the disclaimer peepingthong.com places on its site, and, disturbingly, roughly mirrors Clode's reply in the *TC* to peepingthong.com's activities.

So the women photographed and put on display should have known better. If they had dressed "appropriately" the cameraman would have passed them by and they would have had no troubles.

This is, of course, complete nonsense. Women who choose to dress in clothes our society deems to be racy will always be at times stared at, scorned and ridiculed. They have been for centuries—just think of those women who were arrested for showing a bit of shoulder and leg in the early 1900s. But this does not mean women who choose to wear thongs with low riding pants are responsible for the unsolicited actions of others, including petty invasions of privacy and much worse. To suggest that a woman "had it coming" or "was just asking for it" is the worst kind of apology for sexual predators imaginable.

The problem here is not that women may or may not have known that their skivvies were exposed, but rather the borderline predators at peepingthong.com who prowl the university looking for a nice ass or thong shot and then display it as a trophy for the entire world to see. The onus does not lie with the women. If it did, we should force them to completely cover themselves Burka-style so as to protect men from the impulses they have no control over.

LETTERS

Errors in Martlet's Feb. 3 Groovefest article

On behalf of the UVSS Women's Centre, we would like to correct some erroneous statements written by Melanie Green in last week's article, "Surprises at Groovefest." Green's cautionary statement, "be warned . . . you never know what you might find under a skirt at Groovefest," blatantly generates fear of transsexuals, transgendered and other "gender blurring" folks. Transphobia, which is demonstrated by Green in her article, is precisely what Groovefest resists. Green also used the term "both sexes" to encourage different genders to attend Groovefest. This term suggests a male/female binary that Groovefest deconstructs. Groovefest is a celebration of beauty(s), diversity(s) and sexuality(s). The "both sexes" terminology does not fit into our mandate.

When describing the fundraiser's recipients, Green uses language of victimization by saying, "While we're busy empowering ourselves, it's important to remember some people don't have a chance to get out and make a statement about their uniqueness." We are not speaking for the organizations we will be donating to; rather, we are working in solidarity and supporting local and international social justice groups.

In addition, Groovefest is not "purposefully scheduled for Feb. 12, two days before Valentines Day as a symbol of disdain." Groovefest is a fabulous celebration of outlaw culture that challenges the heteronormative, consumer construction of Valentines Day. Come out and get your groove on!

Loren Husband and Jennifer Cooper

Nether-duds high fashion

The controversy around public space and rights to privacy has gotten a lot of attention recently in regards to the photographing of publicly displayed underwear at UVic and the posting of these photos on a peepingthong.com (*the Martlet*, Feb 3). UVic is even looking into the legality of it and trying to hang this photographer/webmaster, who is being labelled some kind of deviant. Yeah, putting these pictures up on a website isn't exactly noble, but no real violations have taken place because this guy isn't photographing anything private. The girls in these pictures have no problem with people seeing their underwear. In fact, their wardrobe is designed to flaunt their expensive nether-duds. In the article, Sarah Salbati said, "It's just shocking to see that someone would do it because it is such a breach of personal space and boundaries." However, breaching personal space and boundaries implies that you maintained some semblance of privacy and that you put up some personal boundaries. How is flashing your underwear personal? In addition, Caitlin Warbeck, the outreach coordinator for the UVSS Women's Centre claimed that the actions constituted "sexual assault and voyeurism," adding that, "these aren't posed, meaning these women didn't know they were being photographed." She's essentially saying that you've been sexually assaulted if someone takes a picture of you without asking first, which is exactly what photojournalists do. If you walk around naked outside, and someone takes a picture, that doesn't constitute assault. You can't claim that anyone invaded your privacy when you've displayed something publicly.

C. Stevenson

It's not sexual harassment

I am offended by the sexist comments in *the Martlet* article on peeping thongs. How do these self-righteous people get off thinking thongs are only for women? Would they be so righteous if it was anonymous photos of "plumber's crack" of male construction workers? Then I suppose it is humorous and not sexist! Comments like "this is sexual harassment" trivialize what is meant by sexual harassment. If people of any gender-depiction do not want people seeing their thong then they should start with their attire when they dress in the morning. Let's try to keep sexist depictions from perpetuating sexist attitudes.

Ron Miller

The problem with people

In "The problem with God," (*the Martlet*, Feb. 3), Dave Psutka may have pointed out discrepancies between religions, but it is groundless to say that a belief in God and the practice of religion will lead to an "apocalyptic catastrophe." The two main wars that Psutka mentions, India vs. Pakistan and Israel vs. Palestine, can hardly be called religious wars. It is true that each country has a religion that it identifies itself with, but the fact is that these wars are over land. Each country feels it is entitled to its Kashmir or its Israel. If these were wars over religion, they would be with words and they would try to convert each other. There have been too many other wars and massacres that do not pertain to religion or a belief in God to use religion as a scapegoat. Stalin's purges and the Rwandan genocide are just a couple of these examples, and, just like the ones Psutka mentioned, they had political agendas. The idea of abolishing religion for these atrocities would be like ending politics for the political schemes that have cost millions their lives. Psutka also does not take into consideration the millions of people globally who are non-violent, and derive their whole meaning in life from God and the practice of their religion. For many it is an indescribable hope and a faith that there is something better and more righteous than mere humans. It may seem baseless, but it is far more difficult to be faithful to something you cannot see but know with every thread of your being to be true, than to be ignorant. Dave Psutka, you are entitled to your opinions and beliefs, which is a freedom that we enjoy. From you, I ask the same courtesy.

Erin Dexter

Religion isn't all bad

So, Dave Psutka feels that purging this world of religion would free humankind of conflict, massacres and potential warfare. Religion, after all, causes suffering and death. Mind you, there were certainly both of those in the "religion-free" USSR. A lack of space prevents me from using my four years worth of somewhat dry history classes to rattle off more examples, so instead I'm going to get to the point. As just one religious person, I can speak only for myself. Yes, I believe in God. Yes, I believe in an afterlife. Yes, I read divine books (oh, good ol' Deuteronomy, which you know the 13th chapter of so very well). I also support gay rights, a woman's right to choose and religious freedom. For me, belief in an afterlife encourages me to live better in this life. Yes, religion can lead to conflict. But if religion were eradicated, people would fight over something else. Do you honestly believe that taking away the primary element of many people's moral compass will create a more virtuous society? That sounds like it would be, well, downright miraculous.

Shannon Dunlop

Clarifying abortion/violence link

I realize that associating abortion with violence in the article my roommate Ariel and I wrote last week left great room for misinterpretation ("Pro-choicer vs. Pro-lifer"). As a firm believer in non-violence, abortion is not compatible with this ethic. Other people like the Dalai Lama also see abortion as violating the principle of non-violence. In that vein, I believe it is a societal problem and do not aim to condemn women who have experienced abortion. I also wish to speak against any violence against doctors and do not wish women's lives to be put at risk. To me, being pro-life refers to protecting all life, not just the unborn. I apologize to any women who may have felt hurt by the statement in the article. However, I do ask students to reconsider the question of abortion from a perspective of non-violence.

April Griffin

Civil abortion debate key

I just wanted to comment on the article by Ariel Hunt-Brondwin and April Griffin about the abortion issue ("Pro-choicer vs. Pro-lifer," Feb. 3 *Martlet*). I am very pleased to see some people are able to see past their socio-political opinions and recognize that there are real people behind these issues. Too often we close our minds to other people's opinion because we feel threatened. We need to remember that fear can often lead to ignorance. Hopefully we will not let debate become an excuse for inaction. Let's put less effort into stating our opinions and more effort towards helping those in need.

Mark Haines

UVSS 'pro-choice' mandate inclusive

Besides belittling females in their last article, Youth Protecting Youth took pleasure in wanting to legally control women's bodies on campus, as well as control what reproductive knowledge female students are exposed to. Abortion and birth control information is legal in Canada. People will continue to fight for them to be available to all women and their partners. The UVSS "pro-choice" mandate is inclusive of all choices and doesn't discriminate against female students. Anti-choice policies are not "neutral" in any way, as Del Myers claims, but demonize female students for making decisions which are done out of necessity and are of no business to Myers.

The clauses being voted on at 3 p.m. on Feb. 10, "A woman's right to control her own body [just as males do] at UVic" and "The society supports a woman's personal decision when choosing abortion," are not "pro-abortion," but are neutral and provide women with freedom of choice and privacy.

Keeping pro-choice policies in the UVSS is essential and will mean that UVic clubs cannot interfere with the bodies of female students. On Thursday, I will vote to maintain the UVic pro-choice policy that protects all women from oppression from anti-choice groups.

Danielle Edwards

Lingerie and a stand-up bass

Who: Rod Iron Haulers, Switchblade Valentines, BettiLu Bombshells
When: Saturday, Feb. 12 @ 8 p.m.
Where: Diego's, 3366 Douglas St.
How Much: $5

by Ford Walker

Down for helping out a good cause? The Citywide Tsunami Relief concert series is taking place all week. The most exciting show is on Saturday, Feb. 12 at Diego's, when the Rod Iron Haulers, the Switchblade Valentines and the burlesque troupe BettiLu Bombshells take the stage.

Any fans of rockabilly, psychobilly or old-school rock and roll should recognize the Haulers and the Valentines. Part of the rockabilly scene for five years, the Haulers simply make great music. As their guitarist Christian puts it, they make "high-octane drag-strip rock and roll." The Haulers are currently working on a full-length album, with a release date to be announced.

Next on the list is the Switchblade Valentines. While they haven't been around for very long, the Valentines have blended well together. They're humble about their considerable talent, though. Ryan Fogarty, who sings and plays guitar for the band, claims, "For being together for only a couple of months, we're doing all right." That seems like an understatement, as they have at least a dozen original songs ready to play.

"We're hoping to do some covers for novelty's sake," says Fogarty, "but as of now, we're just working on our stuff."

As if these two excellent bands weren't enough to attract you to the show, how about a little dancing of the erotic kind? That's right—filling out the bill are the brassy dames of the BettiLu Bombshells, Bettina and Lulumae. They've been performing for about a year and a half now, and they've always been enthusiastically welcomed by crowds.

PROVIDED PHOTO

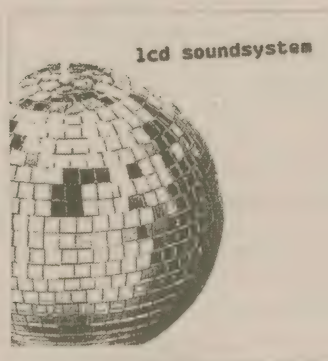
Bettina and Lulumae (left) of the BettiLu Bombshells strip down for the global good.

They'll fit in well with the theme of the show, as Lulumae points out. "We perform to a variety of music, but as our act has a traditional style, we generally stick to '40s and '50s music, or '40s and '50s-inspired music such as rockabilly and psychobilly." The show organizers definitely did their homework with this line-up.

Iron, switchblades and bombshells go particularly well with beer. Just watch your eyes, don't handle any live ordinance, and never drink and knife fight.

Tickets are only $5, and proceeds go to the Canadian Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund.

Dance-punk gets un-dead



LCD Soundsystem
LCD Soundsystem
Sonic Unyon

by Adam Nelson Humphreys

This is the latest release from the hippest label this side of Baghdad. And, oh my God, does it ever kick ass. For those of you who haven't heard, LCD Soundsystem is the pinnacle of indie-friendly dance music, which was genre-fied by bloggers as "dance-punk" about a year ago.

Since then, those same bloggers (Gollum figures who hover over computers with headphones on and who consider themselves the ultimate connoisseurs of pop music) have attacked weak releases from bands like The Rapture, !!!, and Radio4. They subsequently declared the death of dance-punk.

However, LCD Soundsystem is superior to all of its dance-punk contemporaries and so is this album. Of the two CDs that accompany this release, the first is LCD's album, which is wrought with wicked grooves. The second CD is an excellent compilation of their lauded single releases, including the epic hipster-dissing super-single, "Losing My Edge."

If you like getting down and rocking out simultaneously, go out and buy this record. Don't even think twice. Play "Daft Punk is Playing at My House" at all of your house parties. Request "Disco Infiltrator" at whatever make-out bar it is that you go to.

I'll be there, boogieing my ass off.

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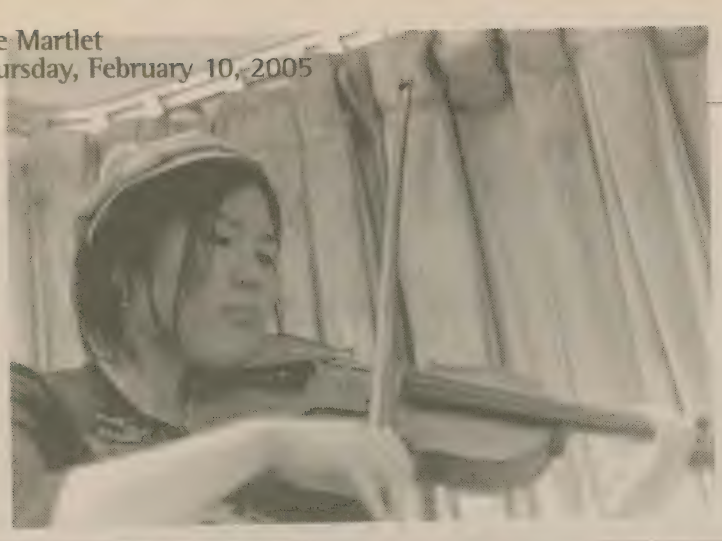

MANDY TANG PHOTOS

UVic Music student Sherry Lee organized the benefit concert.

A classical fundraiser for tsunami relief

Who: UVic music students
Where: Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building, UVic
When: Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
How Much: By donation

by Kevin Nakanishi

The recent string of Canadian charity concerts has been nothing short of eclectic. Last month, Sarah McLachlan led a star-studded roster of Canadian pop artists at GM Place in Vancouver. Locally, the ongoing City Wide Tsunami Relief Series offers grindcore, jazz and almost everything in between.

Leave it to UVic students to put the last piece in the puzzle. On Feb. 19, UVic student musicians hit the stage for Musicians Without Borders, a classical music concert that will raise money for the Red Cross Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund.

The idea for Musicians Without Borders originated with third-year music student Sherry Lee. For Lee, the choice to organize a charity concert was an easy one to make. "The music department has so many talented musicians," Lee says, "and if we can use music to help out, why not do it?"

Lee isn't kidding—the program for Musicians Without Borders is loaded with A-list talent, including violin major Jeremy Ferland, award-winning pianist Angela Alba and percussion ace Philip Rempel. Concert-goers can also expect cellists and even a marimba player to take the stage before the night ends.

Lee, also a violinist, chose not to perform so she can concentrate on co-ordinating the event. She is also quick to acknowledge the support the project has received from her colleagues, faculty and the community. "Many of the music students are scholarship recipients," Lee says, "and the community donates a lot of the scholarship funds. This is our chance to give something back." Lee also points out that most of the performers have changed their reading break plans in order to participate.

Despite this support, Lee still invites volunteers to help sell tickets, receive guests or prepare food for the post-concert reception. "Donations, time, whatever you have," Lee says. "We'd be grateful for any help."

Of course, simply attending the concert also helps the cause—but don't expect any glitz or surprise celebrity appearances. Instead, concert-goers can expect great music, an intimate venue and a charity event with real heart. As Lee says, "Music is a language without boundaries. It transcends borders. It can reach across the world."

For information, contact Sherry Lee at sherry23@uvic.ca, or visit http://concert.soso.ca/

BAND PROFILE | DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN

Math-core for the masses

by Kevin Gillich, *The Link* (Concordia University)

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — Some bands just seem to be bigger than the genres of music in which they are classified. They seem to be, at the very least, known by name in several different scenes. Dillinger Escape Plan is one such band.

In 1999, Dillinger Escape Plan made a huge impact when they released their debut album, *Calculating Infinity*. Their hardcore/heavy metal/free jazz fusion struck a chord with music fans that took notice of their complex structuring and their mathematical and unconventional time signatures. After five very busy years, the follow-up album, *Miss Machine*, was finally released.

"We were looking for something, I guess, in a sense, familiar things juxtaposed in strange new ways," said bassist Liam Wilson, discussing the inspiration behind the name of the new album, as well as the cover art. "The whole amalgamy of man and machine and how we've co-evolved."

On the topic of evolution, longtime fans of the band will notice that Dillinger's sound has undergone some changes. The music on *Miss Machine*—while still as complex as advanced calculus—is more upbeat and, dare it be said, catchy this time around. This was very much an intentional act—the band didn't want to be expected to play a specific formula of sound or write a specific type of album. In this respect, they were influenced very much by bands like Fish Bone and Led Zeppelin.

"They kinda tried a bunch of different things," said Wilson. "They were obviously better known for certain things and they had their strong points, but they weren't afraid to take a risk and be human and try to get some kind of selfish development out of it as musicians or as people. We wanted to kind of associate more with that tradition of album-making.

"We wanted to have something where we didn't get pigeonholed," Wilson continued, "like a Slayer or maybe even a Converge, where their fans would not really know what to do if they were to change their style too much. We wanted to make sure we set something up where in the future we never really have to feel like we can't experiment or that our fans aren't going to be open to that."

> "We wanted to have something where we didn't get pigeoholed, like a Slayer or maybe even a Converge."
> *Liam Wilson*

While figuring out how to keep their fans surprised, the band also had to deal with several hardships, including the loss of vocalist Dimitri Minakakis. There was a long period where the band was afraid they wouldn't find what they were looking for and end up settling.

"We were getting a lot of auditions, via the Internet, that were just horrid. They were just atrocious examples of everything we weren't looking for," recalled Wilson.

Dillinger finally found exactly what they wanted in their current vocalist Greg Puciato. Some critics have accused Puciato of being a Mike Patton (Mr. Bungle, Faith No More) copycat, backing the accusation with the Patton-fronted EP that was released between the two albums. Wilson, however, feels that Puciato has his own style but that the two vocalists do share some traits.

"We wanted somebody who was going to be as versatile of a vocalist. Somebody who was going to be as versatile and as confident with his instrument or his part of the writing process," Wilson said. In some respects, Dillinger doesn't want the constant comparisons, and Wilson feels that it is "hard to do what we do, especially since we have openly invited the comparison. We are sort of inextricably intertwined with Mike Patton now."

Miss Machine is turning out to be just as much a success as *Calculating Infinity* was. With only two full-length albums and two EPs to their credit, they are still hailed as one of the most important and influential bands in heavy metal today. While this was not their original intent, it has become something towards which they have strived. For Wilson, it also fills him with a sense of confidence in the path he has chosen.

"I can go to bed at night knowing that tomorrow I can get up and keep working on this thing that is actually worthwhile."

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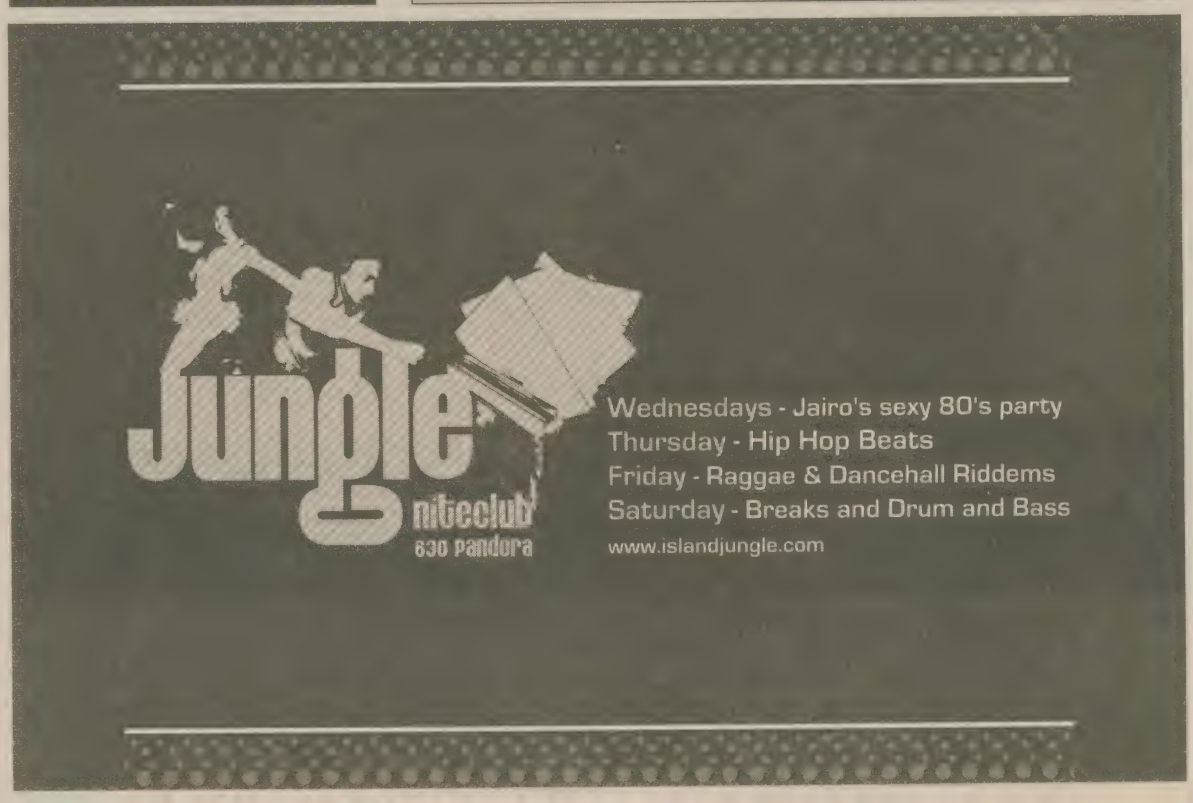

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Shane Carruth gave up his job as a software engineer to make *Primer*, a Canadian sci-fi mind-bender.

Primer revives classic sci-fi

by Sacha Narine

By the time the third *Matrix* movie rolled around, most of us were pretty damn tired of slow-motion jump kicks and diabolical eight-legged robots. Sci-fi has, in recent years, taken a turn towards spectacle and action. A science-fiction film is now merely *Die Hard* with some added jargon and a couple of funny-looking sets.

But then there are films like *Primer*, a Canadian sci-fi sleeper recently screened in Victoria as part of the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival (VIFVF). Written and directed by ex-software engineer Shane Carruth, *Primer* tells the story of two ambitious tech wizards struggling to build, design and ultimately understand a radical new technology.

This is a film that can be spoiled. It has twists and an underlying narrative conceit that should not be revealed too soon. What Aaron (Carruth) and Abe (David Sullivan) create is not what's important; rather, how they use and abuse their creation is what amplifies the film's complexity and intrigue.

With soldering irons and drills, copper tubing and argon gas, the two engineers work to create a technological wonder. What they discover requires cryptic and foreboding disclaimers. Abe says to Aaron, "You'll probably think that what you're seeing is a joke, but you have to believe me that it's not."

As comments like that persuade characters, they also persuade viewers. Carruth's screenplay oozes believability. He writes dialogue like David Mamet (give Spartan a try if you haven't already), having characters talk to one another and never to the audience. Have you ever seen a film and known that what a character was saying was said purely to make you understand the film's story? Have you ever heard a character say, "It all makes sense!" and then begin to explain everything that you were confused about?

Movies do it all the time, and it's never a good thing.

Primer treats science fiction with respect, remembering that the best sci-fi came in the form of clever short stories by Philip K. Dick, novels by Arthur C. Clarke and films by Andrei Tarkovsky. More importantly, Carruth respects his audience with a movie that never panders, never stops to simplify and never falls into formula.

Shane Carruth's first film is a compelling and original return to the greatness that was science fiction.

Check out www.vifvf.com for info on the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival, running until Feb. 13.

Junior Singo stars as Musa in a story about the AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Sadly, the film pays more attention to its message than to its story and characters.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Beat the 'curse'

by Sacha Narine

More message than movie, *Beat the Drum* is the kind of film that viewers feel bad for not liking. We feel bad because it deals with a serious subject—the AIDS crisis in South Africa. We feel bad because the film has emotion and tact, and its creators obviously worked hard to make a visually impressive and technically accomplished movie. But we can only forgive so much. *Beat the Drum* is terminally contrived—a sweet, sad disaster that fails to connect on a deeper emotional level than, say, *American Pie* or *Terminator 2*.

Directed by David Hickson and written by David McBrayer, *Beat the Drum* was actually released in the United States at the Mill Valley Film Festival in 2003 but was only recently screened in Victoria as part of the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival.

A young boy, Musa (Junior Singo), leaves his village for Johannesburg, where he hopes to buy a cow and find his Uncle Majola. Musa's journey begins at home, in a tiny Zulu village in the hills. His mother and father have died of AIDS, his schoolteacher is dying of it, and his grandmother calls on a priestess to rid the family of their "curse." The villagers do not believe in AIDS or condoms, and they shun Musa and his family.

So Musa travels to Johannesburg to earn enough money to replace the family cow, which was killed as a sacrifice to Musa's ancestors. Along the way he meets a surly trucker named Nobe (Owen Sejake), a plucky street urchin named Lahti and a host of other emblematic characters that serve to further the film's contrivance.

Beat the Drum spends more time stating and developing its message than humanizing its characters and telling a story. The film's most affecting scenes are those with veteran actor Clive Scott, as he struggles to cope with his son's illness. But, among a host of other worn-out emotive moments, even Scott's scenes feel slightly false.

Musa's final words to Lahti end the film on a note of grating sentimentality, and the story's natural conclusions are wholly evaded in favour of a pleasant, empty metaphor. "Beating the drum" represents spreading information about AIDS and dispelling the myths that so many South Africans still believe.

While the message is affecting and poignant, the film's treatment of the AIDS crisis in South Africa comes off more like a public service announcement than a rich story in pictures. By no means is *Beat the Drum* a bad film. It's just not an effective narrative, and it could have been so much more.

Check out www.vifvf.com for info on the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival, running until Feb. 13.

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Thai Warrior cracks skulls

by Graham Stark

PROVIDED PHOTOS

A master of Muay Thai kickboxing, Tony Jaa is being promoted as the new Bruce Lee.

First was Bruce Lee. Then came Jackie Chan. Now there's Tony Jaa. At least, that's the marketing behind *Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior*, a new kung fu movie from Thailand. And it's pretty easy to grasp the comparisons.

Basically, *Ong-Bak* will kick your fucking ass. It will kick it without wires or CG or anything else that movie stars use to make it look like they can kick ass, when really they're sitting in their trailer surrounded by hookers and booze. It takes Jackie Chan's "performing his own stunts" to an entirely new and very entertaining level.

Calling the movie "kung fu" is a misnomer because that term denotes Chinese martial arts, while *Ong-Bak* is the first movie with a major North American release to prominently feature Muay Thai kick-boxing. Muay Thai has a long and proud history in Thailand, and it is a martial art that relies on using the elbows and knees as much as the feet and hands.

The plot is standard kung fu fare. The hero, Ting, lives in a small farming village, and when the theft of a rare artifact threatens the village with drought, it's up to him to travel to the big city and wrest it back from the gangsters who stole it. There's the exposition—now settle in.

All of the thoroughly insane stunts in the movie are performed without the aid of doubles, wires or computer graphics, a refreshing antithesis to *Hero* and *The House of Flying Daggers*, which are great movies, certainly, but they're not gritty action movies. *Ong-Bak* is full of impressive old-school martial arts.

Meeting up with an ex-patriot from the village, Ting is drawn into a seedy world of gangs and underground fighting. Ting reluctantly engages in several brawls in which he summarily knocks the crap out of opponents from both Australia and Japan, a play on national tensions in Southeast Asia. These fights are closely followed by a scene that lays waste to a bar and involves another Australian fighter whose chosen martial art is, apparently, "throw whatever happens to be lying around at the guy."

There are also some fantastic chase scenes, both on tri-wheeled Thai taxis and on foot. The latter showcases some stunt work that brought the preview screening's audience to cheers. Ting jumps feet and hands first through a ring of barbed wire less than two feet across and then no-handed cartwheels through two upright panes of sheet glass before leaping straight over two cars and under a third.

It's slow to start and the acting is as melodramatic as one would expect, but you've got to agree that the villain who talks with a robotic voice box is pretty cool. While this goes without saying, *Ong-Bak* is unlikely to appeal to people who simply don't like martial arts movies. But if you want a break from improbable flying battles in bamboo forests and you're looking for some elbow-shatters-skull action, *Ong-Bak* is definitely for you.

Boogeyman: A handy user's guide

by Stephanie Bowen

Five tell-tale signs that you should never return to your childhood home:

Fifteen years ago you watched as your father vanished into your bedroom closet, violently trashed around and then disappeared. People tell you that you constructed the image to cope with your father deserting your mother, but all signs point to paranormal tampering.

Due to the aforementioned trauma, you have spent the last 15 years of your life in intensive therapy and cannot live in a home that has any cupboard doors still on their hinges. Sometimes you sleep with the light on.

On the way to the house, a giant black crow crashes into your windshield and nearly runs you off the road. Symbolism, anyone?

When an old friend conveniently shows up on horseback, her mode of transportation is spooked when it reaches your property line, and it rears ugly and tosses your friend from its back. Foreshadowing, anyone?

Your family home is not only dilapidated, in the country and completely isolated—it is undergoing renovations. Nothing good ever came out of half-completed renos. Not in horror movies.

Should you decide to play the odds, as does young Tim in Boogeyman, be sure to follow these helpful hints:

1 Befriend ex-flame Kate to verify your sanity, offset that slutty blond you've been dating in the city, and make Kate available for rescue to re-affirm your masculinity. Hey, she'll even make you dinner.

2 Befriend wayward young girl you discover hiding in your shed. Feel that you have a "connection" with her and that she "gets" you. Generally this behaviour would land you somewhere equally as unpleasant as a haunted house (i.e. prison), but in this case, it will only aid your inevitable saving of the day.

3 Have recurring flashbacks to your childhood, which resemble a bad made-for-TV movie. They hold the "key" to the "mystery" of the Boogeyman.

4 Fluctuate frequently between wanting to face your fears and run away from them. Intermittently flee the house, only to find yourself right back where you started. This is great for dramatic tension. Plus, you learn a valuable lesson.

5 When the last bad memory has been slain, be sure to close the closet door and open the window to allow the sun to stream in. Close a door and open a window. Get it?

A few reasons to avoid Boogeyman as if your life depended on it:

1 There is no discernable plot. Almost every character refers at some point to a story Tim was told as a child—the supposed cause for his night terror—but we are never told what this story actually is. Nor is there any kind of context or motivation for the existence of the Boogeyman. He's just a scary bad guy/entity intent on stealing children.

2 The concept is dated. Boogeymen are age-old horror fodder, terrorizing the minds of young people all over the world. But what scares us is the element of the unknown—the lying in the dark, potential prey to any number of ghouls. This is much the same as horror films: we may scream when something evil jumps out of a closet, but only a mystical, creepy idea will truly terrify. *Boogeyman* relies on cheap thrills and packs no mental punch.

3 Your heart may race, but chances are you'll sleep soundly alone, in the pitch black, next to your closet afterwards. And what kind of self-respecting horror movie permits that?

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Native Students Union

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February 21-25, 2005

The Native Student Union at the University of Victoria is hosting a week of topics and events to promote Aboriginal Awareness within the University and the Greater Victoria Region. The over-arching theme is creating Aboriginal Awareness and the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness events are organized by days specified below.

February 21: Aboriginal Education and Language awareness,
February 22: Aboriginal Health and traditional wellness awareness,
February 23: Indigenous Resistance,
February 24: Families, focusing on traditional concepts, history, and current issues,
February 25: Celebration, featuring aboriginal arts, crafts and music. Our evening event will be at the Solstice Café on Pandora Street, from 6-9pm.

On Monday to Thursday our evening events will last from 6-9pm and feature speakers from our local aboriginal community, organizations and school faculties. All events will be hosted at the University of Victoria, further dates and times available to be announced.

For Further Information:
Contact Sarah Dickie at sjdickie@uvic.ca or (250) 472 -4394

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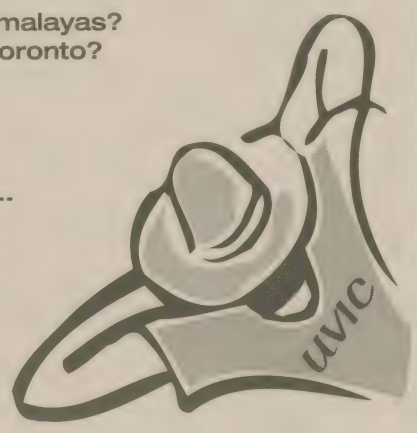

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Limblifter comes out of hibernation

Who: Limblifter
Where: Logan's Pub, 1821 Cook St.
When: Saturday, Feb. 12

by Matthew Wilson

We are all guilty at one time or another of completely forgetting about certain bands. You know those bands. The ones that frequent TV and radio for months or even years, creating the illusion that they're really popular, but then just drop off the face of the earth one day, as if they never existed. It's always mysterious, what those bands are in fact doing in their years of hibernation. But sometimes they wake from their sleeps and re-emerge onto the scene. This is the path Limblifter has taken.

While glued to my computer screen a few weeks back, I noticed Limblifter was coming to town and thought, "Hey, Limblifter! Wait, who are those guys again?"

When Ryan and Kurt Dahle formed Limblifter in the late '90s, they were technically still half of the band Age of Electric. You might remember AOE for their hit single "Remote Control," which was a pop-alternative jewel by Canadian standards. The band became part of an elite group of up-and-comers in the early part of the '90s, at a time when Matt Good was still unknown. They were even nominated for a Juno award. But after a few torpid years, the Dahle brothers split from other half of the AOE, John and Todd Kerns—oddly, another set of brothers. The Kerns brothers would move on to form the band Static in Stereo, which released a self-titled album in 2001. The Dahles formed Limblifter.

The band produced such pop-rock hits as "Tinfoil," "Ariel vs. Lotus" and "Wake up to the Sun." The original trio that was Limblifter has changed over the last few years. Ryan Dahle has been the only constant member. His brother Kurt took off in 2001 to join indie faves the New Pornographers, and Ryan has since hired a new staff of bandmates. Many critics wondered why it took so long for their new release *I/O*, and Dahle understands.

"Four years is a long time in between records," Dahle says on the band's website, "but good cookin' is worth waiting for."

So now the question looms: do they still have what it takes? The Limblifter website says they do. When describing the new album, the site exclaims, "Dahle's gloriously refined songwriting encompasses concise forms and ideas, yet retains the interwoven guitar layers and complex melodies that have made Dahle a memorable, unique and critically acclaimed voice in the Canadian music industry." Quite a wordy description, with nary a hint of bias (wink wink).

The Martlet really wanted to ask Limblifter some in-depth personal questions. We wanted to ask them about their time off, their new album and all the their emotions around the new Western Canadian tour. But they never replied to our request. So we didn't.

Instead we must wait and see if Limblifter can survive in the new generation of modern rock. Ryan Dahle isn't quite as young and hip as he was in the days of Age of Electric, but the band is still confident in their abilities. Now veterans of the Canadian scene, Limblifter must look to their faithful fans to re-emerge. There are new giants of the Canadian rock scene, groups that Limblifter will have to contend with. It is a test of ability for Limblifter to see if they can re-establish themselves in the rapidly changing landscape of Canadian music.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Limblifter return! But did they ever really go away?

Cocky Brit-rock battles Chinese rap

Razorlight
Up All Night
Universal

by Matthew Wilson

Razorlight is another highly touted London rock export whose cocky Brit-rock couldn't be kept secret for long. Already a formidable beast in the British scene, Razorlight is starting to bring its act overseas and keep Western audiences awake after bedtime with the band's first full-length album, *Up All Night*.

Legend has it that lead singer Johnny Borrell's first interview with NME last year opened with him saying, "Firstly, I'm a genius." Another self-assured English frontman states his open arrogance to the rock-and-roll world. Brilliant!

Up All Night is equally as entertaining as Borrell's outspoken proclamations of musical wizardry.

What to expect? Rock to sing, dance and drink to. Songs that include struggles with love and girls, and one called "Vice" that closes with Borrell leaving his cell phone number over the breakdown of screeching guitars and rumbling drums. This batch of mod post-punk tracks is reminiscent of a band formed by some of Borrell's old school chums, the Libertines.

Up All Night is an exciting album that yet again proves that British blokes really know how to make rock and roll that kicks your ass.

Jin
The Rest is History
Virgin

by Tyler J. Lemmon

Jin, TV's *106 & Park* freestyle champion, has finally released his frequently delayed debut offering, optimistically entitled *The Rest is History*. What the Ruff Ryder brethren once envisioned as a potential international gold mine has instead surely sent the Asian rap movement back into oblivion.

Although his buzz enabled him to enlist A-list production talent such as Kanye "The Louis Vuitton Don" West and Wyclef Jean, Jin's simplistic rhyme patterns spoil the colourful backdrops with horrendous punchlines that leave the listener cringing ("My footsteps are like Yao Ming's behind ya"). The few bright spots occur on the record's collaborations—which also illuminate Jin's lack of charisma, as he is outshined by Styles P and Twista on "The Come Thru" and "Karaoke Night" respectively.

The utter wastefulness of this offering is exemplified on "Club Song," as Jin's amateur wordplay ruins a bouncy Just Blaze concoction that surely would have received the appropriate radio spins if given to the Young Gunz or Memphis Bleek of the Roc-A-Fella camp.

The album strikes rock bottom on the pitiful "Senorita," in which Jin attempts to seduce a random vixen, assuring us that he will make his senorita "hotter than a fever." It is this type of disgraceful metaphorical lyricism that leads me to believe *The Rest is History* could surely cure even the most acute case of insomnia.

Although the men behind the mixing boards supplied Jin with various heaters, his insistence on incorporating wacky punchlines and a new-found pimp-like demeanor into his lyrical arsenal will surely leave hip hop heads unsatisfied. True Ruff Ryder followers will be left scratching their heads as to why Jadakiss and Swizz Beatz weren't properly utilized. But they are better off saving their paper for Styles P's *Time is Money*, which hopefully drops in March.

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New England takes three out of four

By beating the Eagles last Sunday, the Patriots become the first dynasty of the 21st century

by Matthew Wilson

By clinching their third Super Bowl win in four years Sunday, the New England Patriots became the first NFL dynasty of the 2000s.

Every Super Bowl is always surrounded with speculation about what the deciding factor will be. Many were thinking it might be Eagles receiver Terrell Owens. The Super Bowl was his first game since breaking his leg back in the regular season. The Eagles hoped he would be a huge factor in their quest for a Super Bowl win.

"You guys believed what [the doctor] said: that I couldn't play," Owens told reporters after the game. "A lot of people in the world believed that I couldn't play. It goes to show you—the power of prayer and the power of faith will take you all the way."

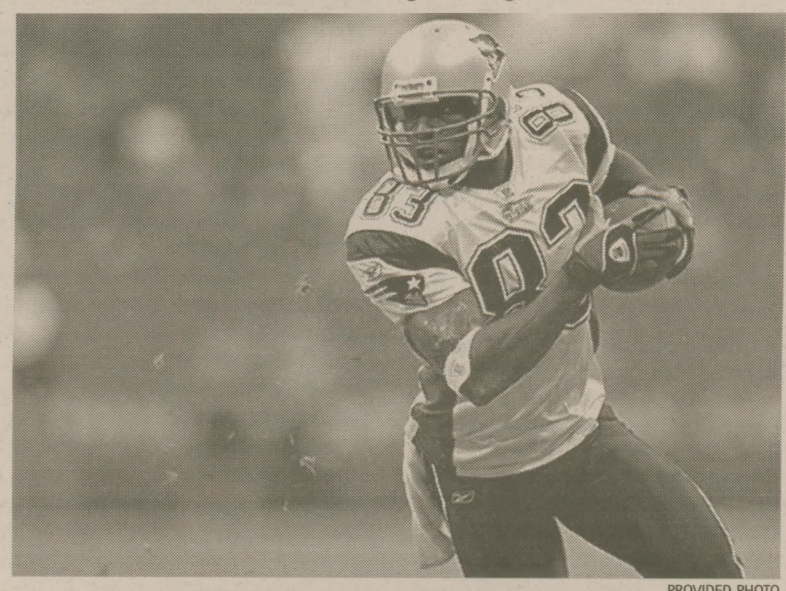
Owens did in fact come up big. Leading all Eagles receivers with nine receptions for a total of 122 yards, and averaging 13.6 yards a catch, Owens did not disappoint fans. But he wasn't it, the Factor.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was the other player thought to be the Factor. The defending Super Bowl MVP was being compared to such football greats as Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw in the pre-game shows. Brady threw 23 passes on 33 attempts for a total of 236 yards and two touchdown passes. He showed the poise and maturity of a long-time veteran quarterback and was the leader for the Patriots on Sunday. But he wasn't the Factor either.

The defence for both teams received a lot of attention and rightfully so—both were revved up and determined. It showed after the scoreless first quarter, when the Patriots didn't gain a single first down and Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb was sacked on the third play of the game. Both defences were tenacious, hard-nosed and determined not to show weakness, but once again the defence wasn't the deciding factor.

The Factor turned out to be the Patriots' ability to secure all aspects of their game. The Patriots showed the true mark of a champion is making the entire team the Factor, not just one or two solitary players. The whole unit decided the game.

But it was the Patriots' Deion



PROVIDED PHOTO

With 11 catches, Branch was named MVP of Super Bowl XXXIX.

Branch who was the shining star, making 11 catches on the night and rightfully named MVP of the game.

"I could feel my confidence growing throughout the game," Branch said. "I can tell you, given my background and where I come from, I had a lot of doubts this could ever happen to me. But after tonight man! No more doubts. None at all."

After the first quarter, the Patriots didn't flinch. They played a consistent game on both ends of the field. This is what differentiated the Patriots' play on Sunday from that of the Eagles.

Philadelphia was buried in the end by turnovers and a lack of urgency in their game. They fumbled once and were intercepted three times, two of which came in the fourth quarter. The speed of the Eagles offence to get the ball in play seemed suspiciously relaxed.

Comparatively, New England threw no interceptions and gave up only one fumble. While Brady showed poise, McNabb showed signs of weakness. This is why the Eagles couldn't pull out the victory.

If you look back in history at the dynasties of NFL's past you can draw many similarities to the Patriots' all around game.

Just like the Pittsburgh Steelers of the '70s, the San Francisco 49ers of the '80s, and the Dallas Cowboys of the '90's, the Patriots have a deep lineup of key players that has placed them where they stand now. No team can win three times in four years without having a strong all around, two-way squad. The Patriots have now proved they can do this.

Though they've proved themselves a dynasty, the Patriots are quite humble about it.

"You guys all want me to say it," Brady said after the game with a grin on his face. "But I'm not going to say it."

TOM BIRCH PHOTO

Give the road a rest and take your shoes to the beach.

The freedom of beachrunning

by Tom Birch

If at any time during the splendidly long reading break you find yourself with an abundance of energy, free time or both, you must find a beach, run along it, then keep on running until you fall down. This is beachrunning.

According to the brains at the American Council on Exercise, as well as improving your fitness, strength and endurance, running will "alleviate stress and release alpha waves, leaving you relaxed and invigorated."

Far be it for me to discourage those readers who have already tackled the Island's streets and trails, or those of you I see tearing around campus.

UVic is round and flat, certainly a good place to start. It's just that, much like eating an ice cream cone or taking your trousers off in public, it is always better to do it on the beach.

Cadboro Bay is wide, quiet and quite close to campus. There I met with fellow enthusiast Yoko and asked what advice she would give to the keen first-timer.

"Don't bother!" she shouted through the wind. We ran on in silence, until she added "Just go somewhere with a good view. Or bring a CD. Anything to take your mind off the pain."

"Too true," I nodded with a grimace.

Yes, the sand is cruel, and I'm afraid that your first few runs will probably hurt like fire. When in 1844, Emerson wrote, "There are people who have an appetite for grief; pleasure is not strong enough and they crave pain," he may well have had in mind the ideal beachrunner.

It is a little like road running, but only in the way that having a bath is a little like going scuba diving. The sand will sap your stamina, and your feet will not thank you for doing this.

Persevere, though, and things will soon get easier. Just think of all those alpha waves.

The only thing that you really have to dodge on the beach is the ocean. The beachrunner is free to focus on his or her steps without having to cross roads or be hit by any cars.

It is this freedom and space, as well as all the time spent mending blisters and shaking sand out of the underpants, that really sets the sport apart.

"But we live in Victoria," I hear you cry. "Where the rain, it raineth every day."

This is true, but the rain will be refreshing and very welcome when tired, when the legs threaten to surrender and crumple into the sand beneath you. And let us not forget that wet sand is a joy to run on, and thus the West Coast climate is an all-round good thing.

I urge you just to get out, grit your teeth and present yourself down at the water. Hope to see you on the beach.

Canadian women represented

Though Canada is known for its snow, Americans and Europeans take more medals at the Winter X Games

by Ford Walker

It was the Canadian women who represented at the Winter X Games in Colorado last week. They took home four medals across different categories, providing serious competition to other competing countries. The men's side disappointed with only two wins.

The Winter X Games were started by ESPN nine years ago as an Olympics-style competition for extreme sports. There are competitions for both skiing and snowboarding, and minor competitions in ultracross (ski and snowboard combined) and snowmobiling. Both the skiing and snowboarding categories contain the cross competition—a six-person race down the hill through gates or slaloms in which the best time wins. There is also the superpipe, a halfpipe with at least 15 feet of vertical wall, and slopestyle, which is a run through the terrain park with jumps and rails. Both are judged by who does the best tricks.

Vancouver women proved they are badass, as Erin Simmons took second in the women's snowboarder X and Natasza Zurek took third in women's slopestyle. Simmons was less than a board's length from taking the gold in the final heat but was defeated by an incredibly close margin by three-time winner Lindsay Jacobellis.

The only gold on the men's side went to Charles Gagnier of Victoriaville, Que. He took first in the men's ski slopestyle, stealing it from three-time defending champ Tanner Hall.

Snowboarding and skateboarding child wonderstar Shaun White, who is only 18, took home his eighth gold medal from the X Games, this time in snowboard slopestyle. He is the youngest member of the Burton International Team and is the only 18-year-old in the business with a signature snowboard, boots, bindings, clothes, helmet and goggles. The kid prodigy won his first gold at the age of 15 and defended it for two years until he unfortunately blew out his knee last year. He has proven his recovery this year, and many who saw his run said it was his best yet. Todd Richards, a long-time X Games competitor and snowboard industry guru, said that White is like a video game character: he is just that smooth.

Danny Kass, a silver medalist at the Salt Lake City Olympics in half pipe, seems to be cursed into the role as second banana as he takes the silver home for the second year in a row.

"He's got no respect for professional snowboarding anymore," Kass said about White. "He just spins and lands. He's got all the Play Station cheat codes programmed into his head, so he's got it in the bag."

Overall, Canadians failed to show up the competitors to the south and put up little defence to the Americans, who took home over 40 medals.

Europe became a large competitor as well, with French and German riders also taking back more medals than Canadians.

Canadian synchro gets back in action

by Mike Berry

After a five-year hiatus, university-level synchronized swimming was back in action across Canada last weekend competing at Queen's University in Ontario. Though it was UVic's first competition, and many of the team's member's first involvement with varsity play, they came a surprising fourth out of 11 teams.

"We were all really pleased," Ilana Allice, an environmental studies student and a member of the team, said, "because the level of competition was so high and the point spread (between UVic and the fifth place team) was great."

The other 10 teams, mainly from Ontario—except for McGill, which sent three teams— met twice prior to the competition at Queen's. Allice says that there was a feeling of concern because they "didn't know what to expect from the other teams."

She was also quick to point out that following the competition a woman from McGill walked up to her and said, "We'd better watch for UVic next year."

So synchronized swimming is back in competition across Canada, but the team at UVic took a lot of hard work and dedication to get started.

Tara Stevenson, the Pacific Sports synchronized swimming coach, was the architect behind the team.

According to Elise Fairy, the current president and a swimmer on the team, Stevenson came up with the idea because she realized the women she was coaching would soon be heading to UVic. She then decided to e-mail coaches involved with Synchro BC and ask if they knew of swimmers that would also be heading Vic's way.

The response was obviously tremendous since there is a team to speak of today.

Fairy said it was a lot of hard work getting the team started, "but it definitely paid off in the end."

In order to create the club Fairy had to approach campus recreation (RecPlus) to find out the procedure.

"We had to write a constitution," she said, "and had to go through much paper work."

TESSA RUTTAN PHOTO

UVic's synchro club takes fourth place in first competition after five years.

They officially gained club status around the middle of October but couldn't manage to find pool space at school or get any funding from the university.

"Next year we should get some allotment," Fairy said. "But not as much as teams."

Clubs are put on probation during their first year, so the university doesn't hand out funding. But the team was given $500 from the Canadian University Synchronized Swimming League. The women currently practice at the Commonwealth Pool in Saanich.

Most of the funding had to be acquired by the team members themselves, said Allice. The search for funding was mainly done by team treasurer Devon Macpherson.

"[She] went to all sorts of companies to ask for funding," Allice said. "But it mainly came down to family support."

Fortunately the team was able to acquire enough money to compete at Queen's and have proper uniforms to boot.

"I was just excited to do synchro again," Allice said. "We all like each other, we were all cohesive and everyone was committed. We had a goal to go to Queen's, so there was an understanding that you had to be committed."

Because of this year's effort, next year's team could start training sooner. They have a pool schedule in place, and they know who their sponsors are.

Though there will be many members leaving the team next year they have plenty of recruitments coming up from the Pacific Sport synchro team, according to Fairy.

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Expertise help wanted to teach me Photoshop Elements, Front Page,Simply Accounting & Power Point. My home close to UVic $15 per hour, flexible hours. 881-4440.

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ON CAMPUS

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Food is one of the basic requirements of life. Many people in our community have difficulty accessing safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable food. What is food security? Are any of us food secure? How does food security affect our communities? How can we address food insecurity? Take part in this workshop to explore these concepts. Sunday, February 20 in SUB b025. 10:00 am - 4 pm. To register or for more information please contact Greg Awai at library@vipirg.ca or 721-8369

UVSS SGI BUDDHIST STUDENT CLUB presents a seminar on Finding Inner Peace (based on Nichiren Buddhism) on February 11, 2005, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at SUB B028.

AIESEC & CAREER SERVICES present: CAREER FAIR 2005, which will take place in the SUB on Feb. 9 & 10 from 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Fifty organizations from different fields are expected. Open to all students & recent grads of UVic, Camosun, Royal Roads & Malaspina who are looking for employment (including summer jobs) or post-graduate study programs. Prior to the event, Career Services will be holding FREE "Preparing for the Career Fair" sessions (Feb 3,7&8). For a complete list of exhibitors and prep session times, please visit www.uviccareerfair.com.

Thurs., Feb.10 - Taku Wilderness Slideshow. Join Nola Poirier of the Transboundary Watershed Alliance and members of the Wilderness Committee for a presentation about the threats posed by the proposed Tulsequah mining road in the largest pristine valley off North America's Pacific Coast. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Hickman Building rm 116, UVic. Free. Info call 388-9292

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Accepting donations to raise money for TSUNAMI relief/rebuilding. Please drop off your new and OLD JUNK, such as...clothing, cd's, records, movies, sports and music equipment, kitchen and household supplies, games, books, electronics etc. Donation table will be in the SUB main hallway weekdays from Thursday Jan. 27-Feb 4 daily 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.. Garage sale dates: Feb. 3 & Feb. 7 in the Michele Pujol Rm., SUB. All money raised goes to Tsunami relief through the CANADIAN RED CROSS.

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and do your part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions! www.co2zilla.ca or www.www.climatechange.gc.ca
For more info on how you can reduce greenhouse gasses affecting climate change, contact the University of Victoria Sustainability Project at 721-7355 or uvsp@uvic.ca

GROOVEFEST will be held on Saturday February 12 / 05 in Vertigo in the Student Union Building. Tickets are available in advance at the SUB info booth, Kiss and Tell, and Lyle's Place. Ticket prices are $7 for the first 100 sold, $10 thereafter, and $12 at the door. For more info, contact groovefest@rise-up.net or 721-8353.

The UVic Pride Collective presents:
Rope Bondage 102 - Feb. 28 at 7:30p.m.
Partner required. $15 dollars a pair. Email UVic Pride at uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca for further informatrion or to register.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNDRAISER SWAP N' SHOP
Saturday, feb. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ecole Victor Brodeur, 2780 Richmond Rd. FREE ADMISSION. We are looking for members of the community interested in selling new/used items, crafts or collectibles. table rentals are available for $10 each. To reserve a table please call Helene at 388-4524 no later than feb. 8, 2005 3:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the volleyball team's trip to Cuba. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Injured at the One Lounge by a Bouncer?
Has a One lounge bouncer ever used unwarranted or excessive force on you? I am a law student who was injured by unnecessary use of a "wrist-lock" in Dec. and am seeking justice. If this has happened to you or a friend, please contact me as it will greatly help the success of the action. Any award granted by the courts will go to a local charity that fights against violence. Please help, Rob. rshirkey@uvic.ca

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Meets regularly on Sunday Evenings. Experience with Russian an Asset but not necessary. Everyone Welcome! For more Info Contact Andrei: 380-8386 or Johnny: 721-9269

The Victoria chapter of the Canada Tibet Committee will be holding a Walk for a Free Tibet on Saturday, March 5, starting at 12:30 at Centennial Sq. The walk will be to the Legislature with a rally there starting at about 1:00. In 1949 the army of the Peoples Republic of China invaded Tibet and began a brutally oppressive occupation that continues to this day.

Join the UVic Chess Club
Come and learn to play chess or improve your game. Club meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30-10 in the HSD building room A260. Contact dejamer@hotmail.com for more info. and put "chess" in subject box.

Theatre Inconnu Presents — in association with Human Motion Machine, **Tzara's Heart** Written and Directed by Ken Hudson. At the Little Fernwood Hall - 1923 Fernwood Road - across from the Belfry Theatre, Feb. 16 FREE preview @ 8pm Feb. 17 to Mar. 5: Wed through Sat (no show on Feb. 25) @ 8pm $10 general, $8 student/senior/unwaged, $5 under 16. Reserve & info: 360-0234

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HEY YOU!

Seni Seviyorum A.A.

Hey! MISS SHIVER-For your bind I find, I'm begging you please. Just part the cover and see. The Key. Let me inside to unlock the wonder you hide...DEEP... For your bind, I find no more, not now. Gone-Good.

To the RA with flowered sheets you've caused a paradigm shift in my soul, which leaves me to wonder, "who will save my soul?" Lunch hours should always be 3 hours super sleuth. I don't like eggplant or squash either.

Hay is for horses, not for you. We like rakes and not so much glue.

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Students and clubs | $2/issue
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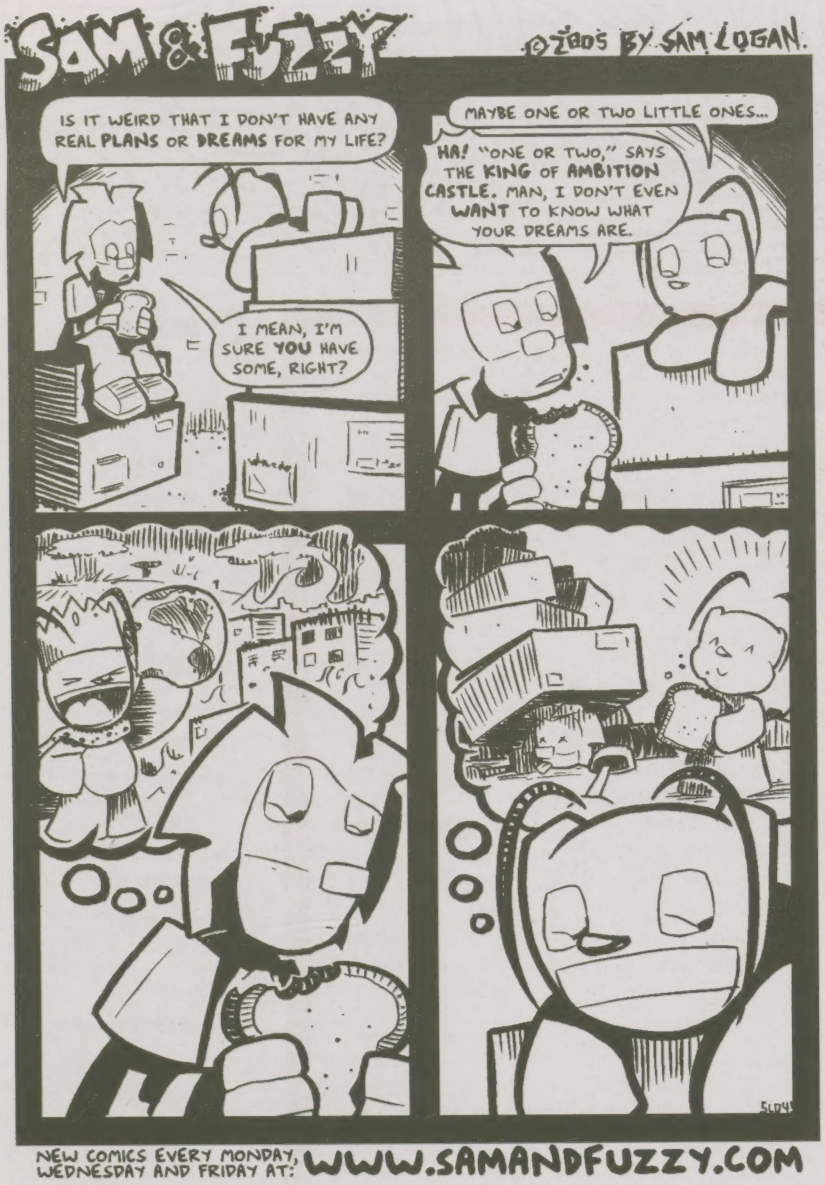
SAM & FUZZY
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IS IT WEIRD THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY REAL PLANS OR DREAMS FOR MY LIFE?
I MEAN, I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOME, RIGHT?
MAYBE ONE OR TWO LITTLE ONES...
HA! "ONE OR TWO," SAYS THE KING OF AMBITION CASTLE. MAN, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR DREAMS ARE.
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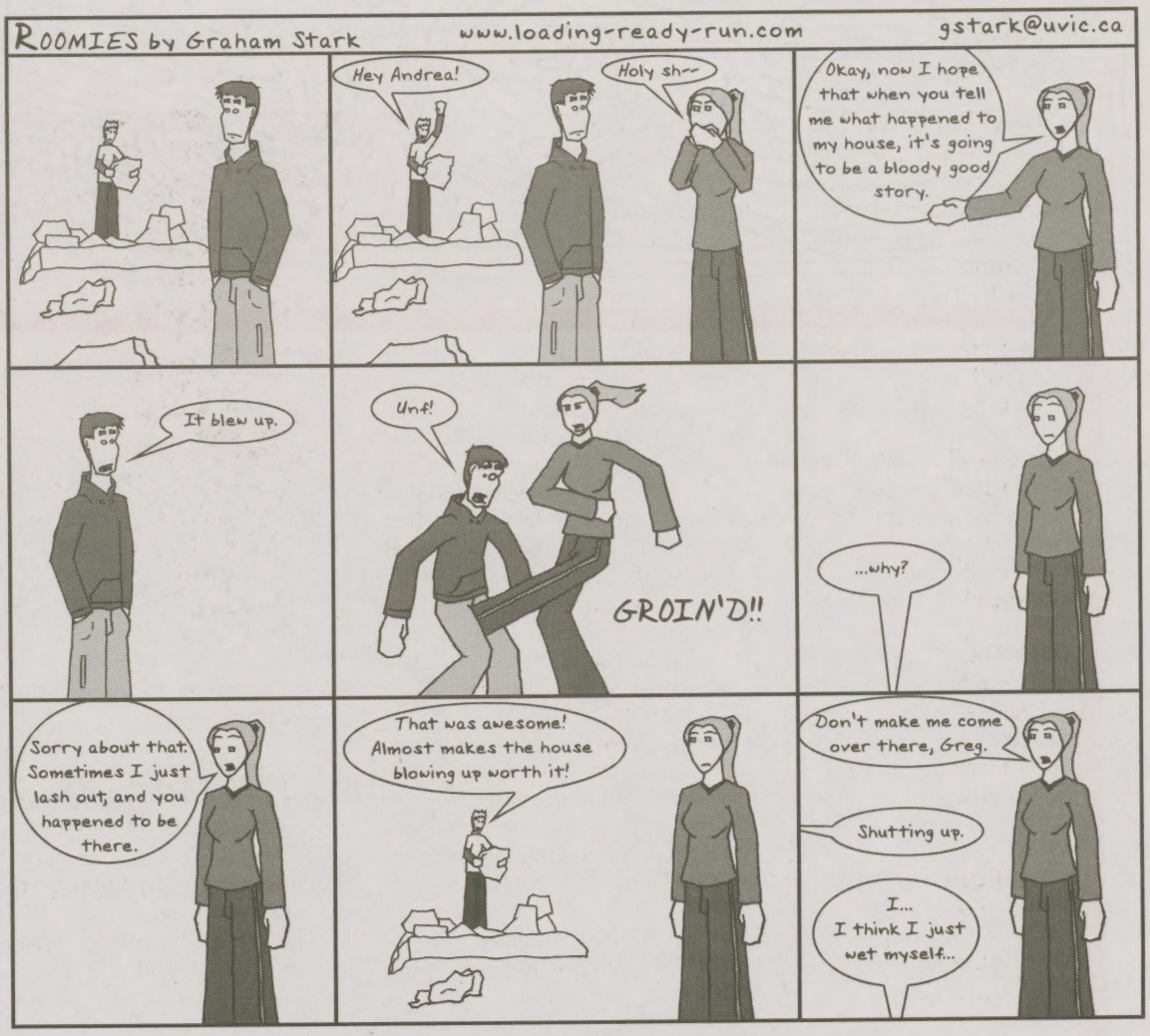
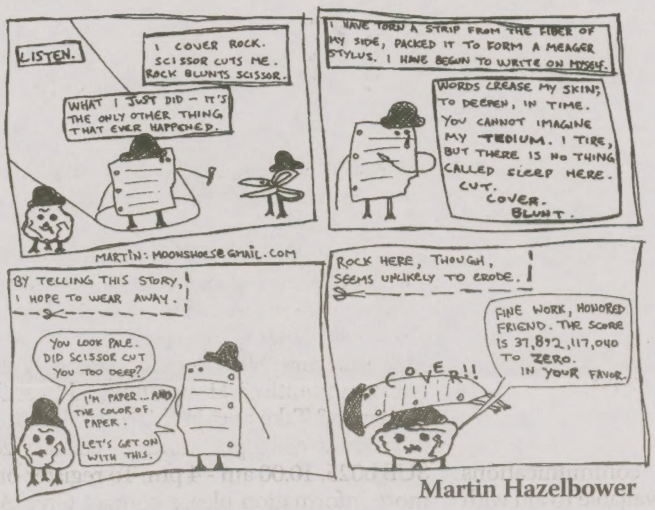
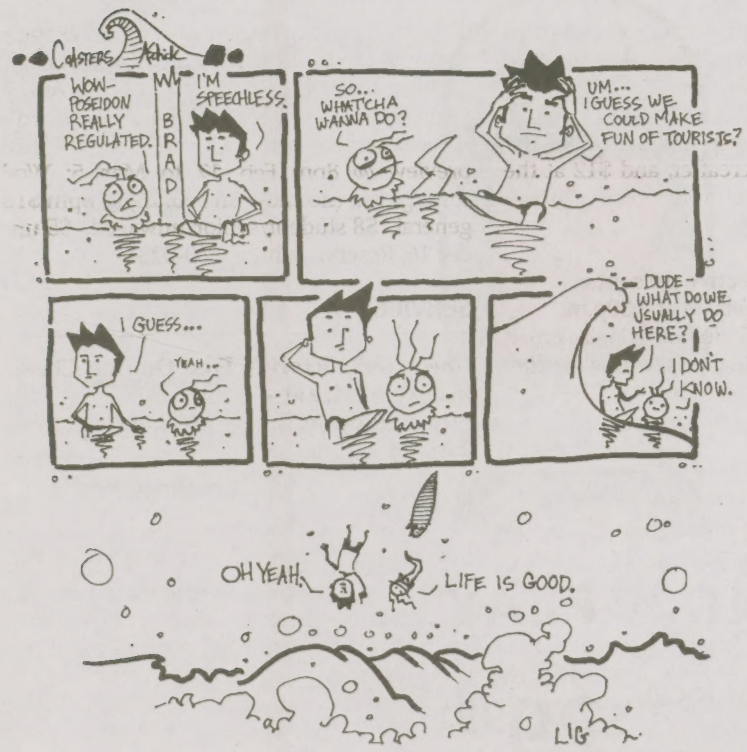
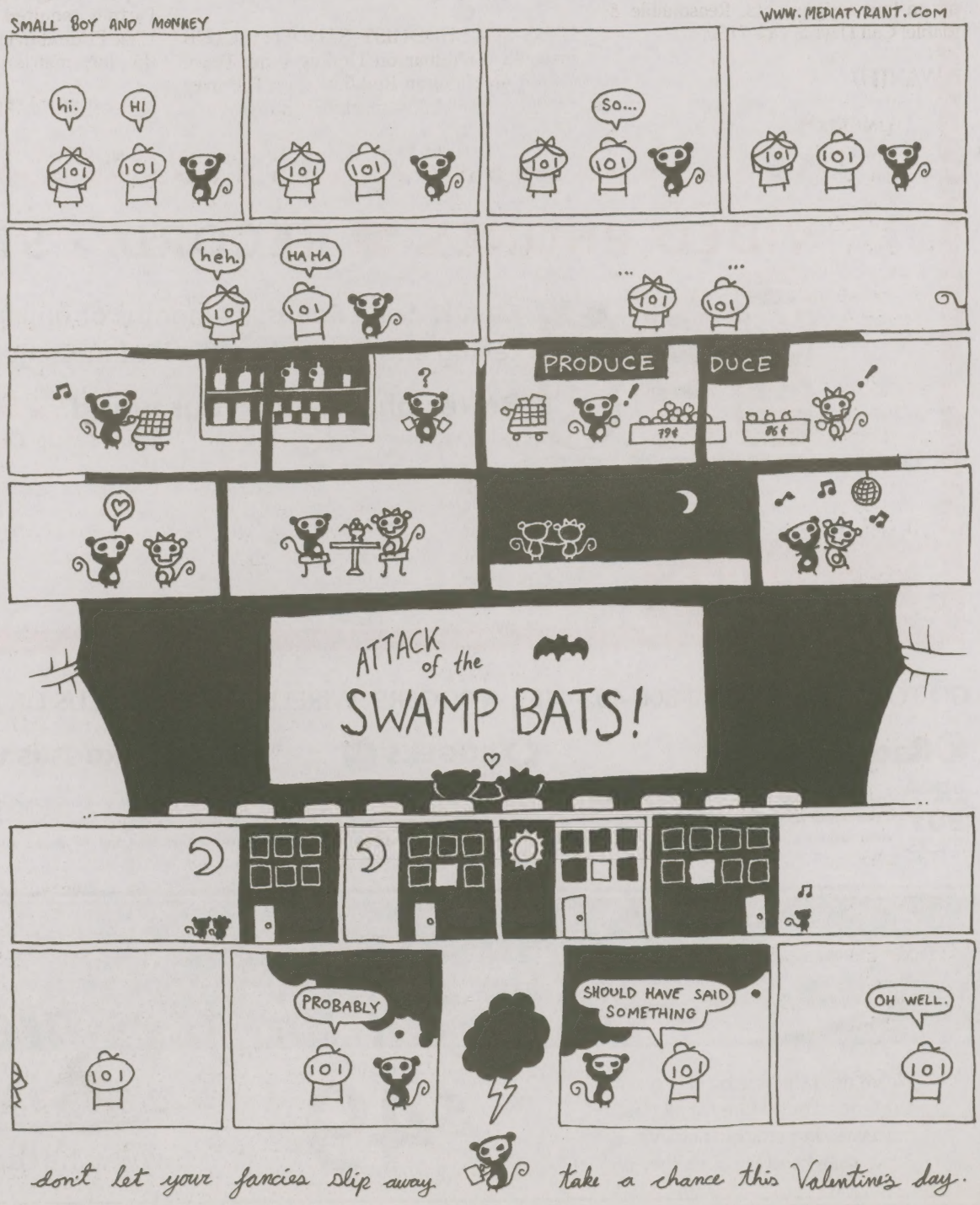
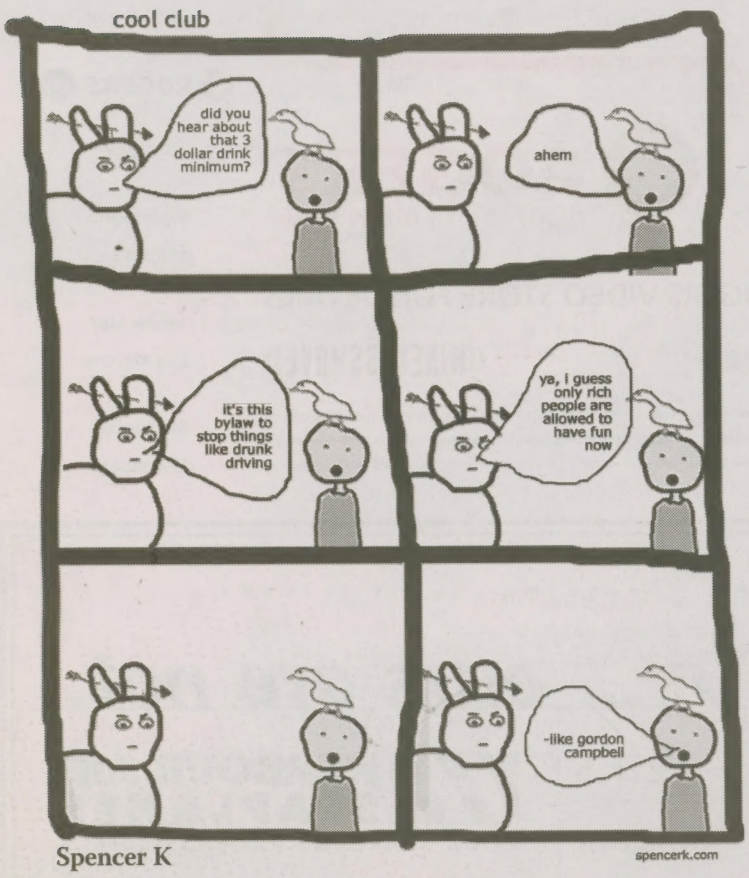

ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Hey Andrea!
Holy sh--
Okay, now I hope that when you tell me what happened to my house, it's going to be a bloody good story.
It blew up.
Unf!
GROIN'D!!
...why?
Sorry about that. Sometimes I just lash out, and you happened to be there.
That was awesome! Almost makes the house blowing up worth it!
Don't make me come over there, Greg.
Shutting up.
I... I think I just wet myself...


LISTEN.
I COVER ROCK. SCISSOR CUTS ME. ROCK BLUNTS SCISSOR.
WHAT I JUST DID - IT'S THE ONLY OTHER THING THAT EVER HAPPENED.
I HAVE TORN A STRIP FROM THE FIBER OF MY SIDE, PACKED IT TO FORM A MEAGER STYLUS. I HAVE BEGUN TO WRITE ON MYSELF.
WORDS CREASE MY SKIN; TO DEEPEN, IN TIME. YOU CANNOT IMAGINE MY TEDIUM. I TIRE, BUT THERE IS NO THING CALLED SLEEP HERE.
CUT. COVER. BLUNT.
MARTIN: MOONSHOESE GMAIL.COM
BY TELLING THIS STORY, I HOPE TO WEAR AWAY.
YOU LOOK PALE. DID SCISSOR CUT YOU TOO DEEP?
I'M PAPER... AND THE COLOR OF PAPER. LET'S GET ON WITH THIS.
ROCK HERE, THOUGH, SEEMS UNLIKELY TO ERODE.
FINE WORK, HONORED FRIEND. THE SCORE IS 37,892,117,040 TO ZERO. IN YOUR FAVOR.
COVER!!
Martin Hazelbower






cool club
did you hear about that 3 dollar drink minimum?
ahem
it's this bylaw to stop things like drunk driving
ya, I guess only rich people are allowed to have fun now
-like gordon campbell
spencerk.com
Spencer K

Ski Lift: 1 Man: 0

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